

A PAPER FOR
THE BUFFS
AND
MEN OF KENT.

12198

The Dragon



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Revised 22

Post free—
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Personalia.

THE Editor craves the indulgence of readers of *The Dragon* and especially of any whose names have been inadvertently wrongly spelt, or titles wrongly given, for any misprints which have occurred in the last two numbers. He can only plead that, in addition to the pressure of work in connection with the Regimental Committee, he is entirely new to Editorial work. He trusts, however, that an improvement in this respect will be noticed in the present number.

General Sir Arthur Paget has taken the Villa Kasbeck, Cannes, for the winter. The villa was once occupied by Prince Christopher of Greece and is noted for having an exceptionally fine view. We wish him a very pleasant and enjoyable stay there, and much success on the golf course.

We have recently heard from Mr. Sydney Mason, late 5382 1st and 2nd Battalions, and Mr. T. L. Fyfe, late Pte. 1st Battalion, both of whom lost a leg during the war: they tell us they intend getting the light metal artificial leg so no doubt they will both be soon running about again!

We are glad to hear the most excellent account of Major G. A. E. Chapman who is now quickly putting on weight after his recent operation. The rumour that, when in hospital, he was ordered to grow a beard on account of looking so absurdly young has not yet been denied.

We are sorry to hear that Colonel H. Findlay has recently been troubled with his old enemy, Asthma.

We congratulate Lord Goschen on his appointment as Governor of Madras, in succession to Lord Willingdon, whose term of office ends in April next.

A canteen, containing 114 pieces, has been presented by the officers of the 1st Battalion to Mr. G. Elvin "in appreciation of his services as Bandmaster from 1904 to 1923."

Captain R. R. Barker, late 3rd Battalion, who will be remembered by many of our readers who passed through Dover during the war, is working in the Exchequer and Audit Department—under the same roof as Major Tomlinson.

We are glad to hear that Mr. J. G. Scott (late corporal 8th Battalion) is still with the Heather Mills Company, 37 Sackville Street. He is a keen supporter of the idea of an 8th Battalion dinner, to which we wish every success. Further particulars of this dinner will be found on page 33.

Captain Geoffrey Samuelson, although not reported as being present, put in an appearance at the Regimental Dinner, looking very fit and well, and although only recently having undergone an operation for appendicitis, he is now feeling much better in health than ever he did, and trusts to be taking a leading part, as usual, this season, in the winter sports at Mürren where he is well known. We should like to have seen more of the original 8th Battalion Officers present at the Dinner; only two put in an appearance.

Captain C. L. Cardozo, so well known in the early days of the 8th Battalion, was met recently in Regent Street, as young and vigorous as ever; last winter and spring he spent with his family at San Remo and had a most enjoyable time there; he would like to be remembered to all old friends. He looked more the "Count" than ever and is residing near Chudleigh, Devon.

Colonel Smith of the Saskatchewan Light Horse, was a most interested visitor at the recent Regimental Dinner. He was exceedingly pleased with everything he saw and heard. Early in his soldiering days he served with our affiliated Canadian Regiment "The Queen's Own Rifles" of Toronto, and when the band struck up the Regimental March, he became very enthusiastic, and said, "By jove! that's our old march. Many a time I've gone past the saluting base to that time," and when he was informed that it was "The Buffs" march, he said "Well! did we filch it from you or you filch it from us," and on being told *Handel* wrote it specially for the Regiment some two hundred years ago, he was greatly interested. "The Queen's Own Rifles" were given permission to use the march some years ago.

Mr. G. A. Gear, 1 Aldborough Road, Bohemior, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex, is seeking a job as painter in Canterbury.

He writes:—"I see in *The Dragon* the name of Mr. G. Eaton, late Mess Sergeant, 1st Battalion The Buffs. I should be very glad if he would drop me a line. He may remember me best as his Shouting Chum late 53 Pte. G. Gear of "A" Company, 1st Battalion The Buffs. I am also very sorry to hear of his wife's break-down.

Mr. W. Weekes (late I/Cpl. 2nd Battalion) writes from 35 Esmeralda Road, St. James' Road, Bermondsey, S.E. 1, that he has been laid up, but we are glad to note, is well again now though he was unable to attend the dinner and march to the Cenotaph. He wishes Lance-Corporal Wickham of "A" Coy., 2nd Battalion The Buffs to write to him to the above address.

Personalia—Continued.

We are indebted to Mr. John C. Deal, of 62 Longfield Road, Dover, for a marriage announcement and for the following interesting items.

Tommy Spicer was well known among the drummers and later the bandsmen of the 1st/4th Battalion The Buffs and may still be seen in uniform, but that of the G.P.O., daily doing his rounds at Dover.

Two more of the 1st/4th Battalion The Buffs may daily be seen at Dover, L/Cpl. Johnny Prescott, who was well known to the drummers, and Pte. A. Kingsmill, of B Company; they both re-enlisted and came to Blighty from India for their furlough, then joined the 2nd Battalion The Buffs and returned to India to revisit some of the stations they had been to when in the 1st/4th Battalion. They came back to England this year on completion of their re-enlistment to receive their discharge and are both in employment.

The Chaplain-General (Bishop Taylor Smith) visited Portland in November and was the guest of Major and Mrs. Norman at Portland Castle. His Lordship preached at the Buffs' Parade Service at the Garrison Church on Sunday, November 25th, and lunched afterwards with the Officers at the Verne Citadel.

We hear that the 1st Battalion have started hunting at Gibraltar and that Col. and Mrs. Power have only missed one day with the hounds so far

Capt. Vertue is on leave and is staying in London.

Lt. Davies has taken over the Adjutancy of the 4th Battalion from Major Howard Smith.

Lt. Thorne-Thorne is also on leave and was playing soccer for the Army the other day.

We congratulate Capt. Hamilton and Lt. Lister on obtaining their "D" at Hythe

Lt. Willows sailed for Gibraltar on the 14th December.

Pte. Stillman of "D" Coy., 2nd Battalion is married and doing well.

We hear that Mr. C. E. Wilson, now on half-pay, and late of the 1st Battalion, has settled in Devonshire: his address is Buff Cottage, Seaton, S. Devon.

Captain Harry Jackson is hard at it making and burning bricks for his new house in Kenya Colony. He asks for the address of Mr. John Chester, which is 5th Battalion, King's African Rifles, Kenya.

R.Q.M.S. E. J. Evans sends us the following from Gibraltar:—

"It may interest old members of the 2nd Battalion to know that the "Key Sergeant" of the Gibraltar Fortress is R.Q.M.S. Utton who left the Regiment as No. 5939 Pte. Utton, "H" Coy. at Dover, on the 5th of September, 1914, being then transferred to the Corps of Military Foot Police.

I have passed on copies of *The Dragon* from August to November, 1923, which needless to say he was delighted to receive.

Another friend of Wellington (India) days serving here, is Garrison Or.—Mr. Sgt. Keogh, who was R.Q.M.S. of the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, he is still plodding along, and according to Mr. Andrews, is looking as young as ever."

Mr. I. Twyman, late 1st Battalion Royal Scots' Fusiliers having seen "The Bengalee Babu" in our columns writes to tell us he was in India in the seventies and remembers Dave Carson. He heard him sing "The Bengalee Babu" and "The Palkee Wallah" in Bangalore, Madras and Wellington. We should be very glad to have Mr. Twyman's address as we should like to send him the copy of *The Dragon* in which the original version appeared. Perhaps he would be able to give the words of "The Palkee Waller."

We have heard from Capt. W. H. Wyld whose name appeared recently in one of Colonel Moody's racy articles. He would much like to meet Colonel Moody again.

Mr. S. T. Ovenden an old Buff, is, we hear, employed at The Langhorne Hotel, Folkestone.

C.Sgt. Bert Spicer, now living at Maidstone, is employed, we believe, with Kreemie Toffee Firm, looks well and is anxious to get in touch with old pals.

The illustrations accompanying the 1st Battalion news are from drawings submitted by Pte. W. Caless.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTH.

Osborne.—On 13/11/23 at Canterbury, the wife of 6279488 L/Sgt. G. Osborne of a daughter, Evelyn Margaret.

MARRIAGES.

Kisbee—Pearce.—On November 28th, at Dover, No. 6279422 Pte. R. H. Kisbee, 1st Bn. The Buffs, to Evelyn Nellie Kathleen Pearce.

Reay—Windle.—On January 1st, 1924, at St. John's Church, Upper St. Leonards, Charles Reay (late The Buffs) to Theodora, daughter of The Rev. and Mrs. T. H. Windle

Spicer—Gallop.—On November 7th, 1923, at St. Martin's Dover, by the Rev. E. C. Robinson, Thomas, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Spicer, of Dover, to Ellen, eldest daughter of the late Mr. H. G. Gallop and Mrs. Gallop of Dover.

DEATH.

Winstanley.—On 23rd November, 1923, Mr. W. Winstanley, late 1st Battalion, the Buffs, after a short illness.

Obituary.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Mr. W. Winstanley, late Sergeant (O.R.S.) 1st Battalion, who passed away on 23rd November, 1923, after a short illness.

Mr. Winstanley served in the Buffs for 21 years and was discharged on pension in June, 1903. He also served in the Essex Regiment during the Great War, and was transferred into the Buffs, where he attained the rank of Company Sergeant-Major.

He held the long Service and Good Conduct medal, and also medal for the Relief of Chitral, 1895.

We are sure that many readers of *The Dragon*, both Officers and Other Ranks, will be sorry to hear of the death of this popular N.C.O.

The funeral took place at the West Ham Cemetery on Thursday afternoon the 29th November.

Mrs. Winstanley's present address is 18 Leysonstone Road, Stratford, E. 15.

The Regimental Committee.

WE repeat here the apology which the opening paragraph of this number contains, and give in alphabetical order by rank, a revised list of the names of those who have kindly consented to serve as Vice Presidents of The Past and Present Association, the Buffs.

Major-Generals.

- Sir E. G. T. Bainbridge, K.C.B.
- Sir A. Lynden Bell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
- B. R. Mitford, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Brigadier-Generals.

- A. J. Whitacre Allen, C.B.
- R. Bayard, D.S.O.
- E. H. Finch Hatton, C.M.G., D.S.O.
- R. A. Hickson, C.B.
- H. C. de la M. Hill, C.B., C.M.G.

Colonel Commandant.

R. McDouall, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., late commanding 1st Battalion.

Colonels.

- Sir T. Brinckman, Bart., C.B., late commanding 3rd Battalion, Hon. Colonel 3rd Battalion.
- G. V. Daughlish, late commanding 1st Battalion.
- Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., V.D., Hon. Colonel 4th Battalion, late commanding 5th Battalion.
- W. E. R. Kelly, late commanding 2nd Battalion.
- W. H. Trevor, D.S.O., late commanding 2nd Battn.
- Sir C. B. Vyvyan, Bart., C.B., C.M.G., late commanding 1st Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonels.

- J. Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., late commanding 5th Battalion.
- F. Bradley Dyne, late commanding 4th Battalion.
- W. A. Eaton, O.B.E., late commanding 6th Battalion.
- E. W. Hussey, V. D., late Hon. Colonel, 5th Battalion.
- J. Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding 2nd Batt.
- F. Mainwaring Dunstan, T.D., Commanding 4th Battalion.
- J. Munn Mace, T.D., late commanding 5th Battalion.
- R. E. Power, D.S.O., commanding 1st Battalion.

PATRONS.

In an early issue, we look forward to publishing the names of those in the county who are willing to give their patronage to the Association in addition to The Marquis Camden who has already kindly consented.

HONORARY CHAPLAIN.

The acceptance of the Dean of Canterbury to act as Honorary Chaplain to the Association will be welcomed by all ranks, and it affords us great pleasure to publish the following letter sent by him to Brigadier General Finch Hatton.

Dear General Finch Hatton,

I highly appreciate the honour you confer upon me by the invitation you convey to me to become Honorary Chaplain of The Past and Present Association of The Buffs, and I have the greatest pleasure in consenting. I shall esteem it a great distinction to be associated in such a manner with your great Regiment, and the kindness I have always received from the Officers and men of the Regiment renders it a special pleasure to me to be of any slight service to them.

Accept also my thanks for your personal kindness in the matter and believe me.

Sincerely yours,

H. WACE,

DEAN OF CANTERBURY.

BENEVOLENT WORK.

Since our last announcement, the following donation has been received from—
Mr. A. H. Charlton, late No. 1814, private,
8th Battalion 4s. 10d.

The following disbursements have been made:—

		£	s.	d.
Nov. 16.	Grant to help old soldier to buy food	1	0	0
20.	„ to assist physically unfit man to buy warm clothing ...	1	0	0
20.	„ to help out of work Buff, until he finds employment	1	0	0
20.	„ to help widow suffering from cancer. Two sons killed in the War	1	0	0
20.	„ to assist man to buy tools so that he can start work	1	0	0
20.	„ to assist man in poor health	1	0	0
24.	„ to help man with seven children buy food, no one working	1	0	0
24.	„ to help man recover clothing from pawn	1	10	0
27.	„ to assist mother of dead soldier, she has only a small pension, and is in delicate health	1	10	0
28.	„ to help man pay arrears of rent and recover clothing from pawn. In bad health, wife not able to walk	4	10	0
Dec. 1.	„ to pay the cost of a great coat	0	15	0
5.	„ to assist man in bad health, wife very delicate	1	10	0
5.	„ Man out of work, two young children	0	15	0
6.	„ to help man out of work, exemplary character, has a bad hand wound	1	0	0
7.	„ to assist man to buy boots for his children. He does not earn high wages and has large family	2	10	0
10.	„ to help man out of employment	1	0	0
12.	„ to help widow of 70, (husband 21 years service), has only the old age pension to live on. (10/- per week. Rent, 5/- per week)	1	0	0
13.	„ for man out of work. Man is disabled, has no regular work. Child just had an operation	1	0	0
13.	„ to help buy a suit of clothes to enable man to get a job	1	0	0
13.	„ to assist mother of soldier killed in War	1	0	0
Per Captain and Quartermaster T. Cook towards pay for work done by applicants at the Depot		7	5	0
Grand Total		33	5	0

SANDHURST MEMORIAL.

Donations to this have been received during the past month from Majors E. F. Gould and R. G. A. Marriott, D.S.O. The total received now amounts to £75 ls. 6d. out of the £100 required.

Cheques should be made payable to the Sandhurst Memorial and sent to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, Depot the Buffs, Canterbury.

Colonels of The Buffs.

No. 25. General the Earl of Effingham. *Colonel of The Buffs*, 1832—1845.

THE Coronation of George IV. was the sole occasion on which he acted as Earl Marshal: he was the last Deputy Earl Marshal in the days of the Catholic Disabilities and of the Test Acts. Towards the end of the reign of George IV. the Catholic Emancipation Act (1829) became law in Parliament. And at the next Coronation—that of William IV. in 1831—Bernard Edward Howard, Duke of Norfolk, the chief of the Roman Catholic Peers, assumed his "Hereditary Office" that of the Earl Marshal of England.



GENERAL THE EARL OF EFFINGHAM, G.C.B.,
COLONEL OF THE BUFFS.
After a portrait by Alfred Tidey.

The following transcripts of some of the autograph letters relating to the Coronation of George the Fourth, preserved at Tusmore speak for themselves.

The Royal Summons.

GEORGE, R.

RIGHT TRUSTY AND WELL BELOVED.

We greet you well. Whereas the nineteenth day July next is appointed for the Royal solemnity of Our Coronation. These are to will and command you (all excuses set apart) to make your personal attendance on Us at the time above mentioned furnished and appointed as to your rank and quality appertaineth. There to do and perform all such services as shall be required and belong unto you. Whereof you are not to fail. And so we bid you most heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at Carlton House, the 16th day of June, 1821 in the second year of Our reign. By His Majesty's Command.

H. H. MOLYNEUX HOWARD,
To, Kenneth Alexander, D.E.M.
Baron Howard of Effingham.

HENRY ADDINGTON, VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH, Secretary of State to BERNARD EDWARD HOWARD, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England.

Whitehall,
July 5th, 1821.

My Lord Duke,

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to approve of Your Grace's proposal to appoint the Right Honourable Kenneth Alexander, Baron Howard of Effingham, to discharge the Duties of the Office of Earl Marshal of England, at the approaching Solemnity of His Majesty's Royal Coronation. I have received His Majesty's Commands to acquaint Your Grace therewith, and at the same time to state that although the King has been induced under the peculiar Circumstances of the present Moment to depart from the Rule that the Duties of the Office should not be exercised by any person under the Dignity of an Earl, His Majesty wishes it to be understood that this Departure is not to be drawn into a precedent.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord Duke,
Your Grace's most obedient, humble Servant,
SIDMOUTH.

His Grace the Duke of Norfolk,
Earl Marshal of England.

THE LORD HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM to
THE VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.

No. 9 Mansfield Street,
July 16th, 1821.

My Lord,

I think it incumbent upon me to lay before your Lordship a letter from Lord Hood, of yesterday's date, which has just been transmitted to me by His Grace the Duke of Norfolk.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your obedient, humble servant,
HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM,
Acting Earl Marshal of England.
The Lord Viscount Sidmouth.

HENRY VISCOUNT HOOD to
THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

My Lord,

Her Majesty has commanded me to say, as it is Her intention to be in Westminster Abbey on the 19th during the Ceremony of the Coronation of the King, your Grace is requested to appoint persons to receive Her Majesty at the door of the Abbey, to conduct Her to Her seat, and the Hour Her Majesty has named to be there is half-past Eight in the Morning.

I have the Honour to be,
With great Respect,
Your Grace's Obedient, Humble Servant,
HOOD.

Brandenburgh House,

July 15th, 1821.

His Grace The Duke of Norfolk, &c., &c., &c.

THE VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to
THE LORD HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM.

Whitehall,
July ye 16th, 1821.

My Lord,

I have been honoured with Your Lordship's Letter of this Day's date, inclosing (sic) one addressed by Lord Viscount Hood to His Grace The Duke of Norfolk, and I think it incumbent upon me to acquaint Your Lordship that having received a Letter, dated the 11th of July, from the Queen, in which Her Majesty was pleased to inform me of Her Intention to be present

at the Ceremony on the 19th, the Day fixed for His Majesty's Coronation, and to demand that a suitable Place should be appropriated for Her Majesty. I was commanded by the King to acquaint Her Majesty that it was not His Majesty's Pleasure to comply with the Application, contained in Her Majesty's Letter, and a Communication to that Effect was accordingly made to Her Majesty on the 13th Inst.

I have the honor (sic) to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most Obedient, Humble Servant,

SIDMOUTH.

The Right Hon. The Lord Howard of Effingham,
Acting Earl Marshal of England.

THE LORD HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM to
THE VISCOUNT HOOD.

No. 9 Mansfield Street,
July 16th, 1821.

My Lord,

I have the Honor to acquaint your Lordship that the Duke of Norfolk, having transmitted to me as appointed to do the Duties of Earl Marshal of England at the Ceremony of ye approaching Coronation, your Lordship's Letter to His Grace of ye 15th Inst. I thought it incumbent on me to lay the same before the Lord Viscount Sidmouth, Secretary of State for the Home Department, and I have just heard from his Lordship in Reply, that having received a Letter dated ye 11th inst. from The Queen, in which Her Majesty was pleased to inform him of Her Intention to be present at the Ceremony of ye 19th, the day fixed for His Majesty's Coronation: and to demand that a suitable Place should be appointed for Her Majesty, he was commanded by The King to acquaint Her Majesty that it was not His Majesty's Pleasure to comply with the Application contained in Her Majesty's Letter. I have accordingly to request that Your Lordship will make my humble Representation to Her Majesty of ye Impossibility, under these Circumstances, of my having the Honor of obeying Her Majesty's Commands.

I have the Honor to be, My Lord,

Your obedient, humble servant,

HOWARD.

The Lord Viscount Hood,
Brandenburg House,

In spite, however, of this definite refusal of her request to be present at the Coronation, Queen Caroline arrived at Westminster at 8 o'clock in the morning on the appointed day; her way had to be barred by the guards on duty at the door.

ROGER STANLEY to

THE LORD HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM.

17th July, 1821.

My Lord,

I hereby declare my intention to accept the challenge of the Champion at the Coronation of his Majesty, and request you will make the proper arrangement for the combat. I shall expect to be furnished with a horse equal in all respects to that of the Champion, together with arms and armour suitable to a stature of six feet four. I am provided with a ticket of admission to the abbey and shall present myself at the announcement of the challenge.

I am, my Lord,

With great respect,

Your Lordship's humbly,

ROGER STANLEY.

Note. It will, however, probably be remembered that the challenge of the Champion (Dymoke of Scrivelsby) was not announced in the Abbey at all, but in Westminster Hall at the banquet*. But no one

*The account (£18,000) for this banquet was never paid. It was the last Coronation at which a banquet was given.

appeared at the critical moment to take up the glove thrown down as his gage by the Champion. The acting Earl Marshal's eldest son, who was in 1821 a boy at Harrow, was given a seat in the temporary galleries in Westminster Hall by his father and so witnessed the Banquet and saw his father riding in with the Iron Duke and Lord Anglesey in the Champion's train at the delivery of the challenge. This boy, who afterwards became the second Earl of Effingham, has often described the whole scene to his grandson (the present Lord Effingham), and used to observe that his father and the authorities at the time did not take very much notice of the above letter from "Roger Stanley," probably an assumed name, and perhaps a lunatic. The incident was, however, a disquieting one in view of the agitation then prevailing out of doors in favour of Queen Caroline, and it was also remembered that at the previous Coronation—that of George III.—the Champion's gage was taken up by an old woman, believed to be a man in disguise and an emissary of the Jacobite party¹.

As regards his military career, Kenneth Alexander Howard was gazetted ensign to the Coldstream Guards on 21st April, 1786, and served with them in Flanders from 1793-5, and, as brigade-major to the Foot Guards, throughout the Irish rebellion of 1798 and the Duke of York's expedition to Holland the following year. Receiving rapid promotion in his regiment he joined the army in the Peninsula in 1811, and was given command of a brigade in the 1st Division; later in the same year "he was transferred to the 2nd Division which he commanded as senior officer under "Lord Hill until August, 1812." He was then re-transferred to the 1st Division and given command of the 1st Brigade of Guards which he commanded until the end of the war. He was present at the battle of Fuentes D'Onoro, Arroyo de Molinos and Almaraz, and was on the two latter occasions specially mentioned for gallantry and thanked by the home government. He took continuous part in the operations of 1813-14 and received the medal and clasp for Vittoria and the passage of the Nive.

After the war he was appointed Governor of Portsmouth and commander of the South-Western District. He was thus prevented from being at Waterloo, but later, as local lieutenant-general, commanded the 1st Division during the occupation of Paris. He was created K.C.B. in 1815 and G.C.B. in 1820; he was also a commander of the Portugese order of the Tower and Sword.

On 11th December, 1816, on the death of his kinsman the 4th Earl of Effingham, General Howard succeeded as 11th Baron Howard of Effingham, and took his place in the House of Lords the following year. Appointed Colonel of the 70th Foot in 1816, he was transferred to the colonelcy of the Buffs in 1832 and in 1837 was promoted full general; whilst a few months later the Earldom of Effingham was revived in his favour. He thus became 1st Earl of Effingham of the second creation. He died at Brighton on 13th February, 1845, and was buried in the family vault at All Saints' Church, Rotherham, where a monument* was erected to his memory. There is also a memorial tablet to him in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London.

During the whole of Lord Effingham's Colonelcy the Buffs were quartered in India; they, in fact, reached England a few weeks after his death, having spent twenty-three years abroad. The strength of the regiment at this time was 43 officers, 30 sergeants, 4 drummers and 434 rank and file; and there remained only two officers and three privates who had embarked with the Buffs for New South Wales in 1822 and 1823.

* See *Dragon*, September, 1923, p. 311. [F.W.T.]

(1) See "Redgauntlet"—Sir Walter Scott.

"These notes are taken from 'The Howard Portraits of Tusmore.' by the Earl of Effingham, in whom is vested the copyright."

The 1st Battalion.



THIS month finds the Battalion in a more settled condition and a little more acclimatized to Gibraltar. Thoughts are naturally turned now to making preparations for Christmas and the fattening of your own turkeys has already become a popular idea.

His Excellency the Governor, was the guest of the Regiment at a Regimental Guest night on 27th November.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new Bandmaster, Mr. E. L. Leach.

Harris Shield Bayonet Fencing and Hockey are in full swing—the results up to date are given below.

"B" and "D" Companies at Grand Casemates' Barracks have become a Detachment under the command of Lt.-Col. Lucas.

"A" Company is to be congratulated upon being third in Mr. Hoare's Running Cup—open to the whole Garrison held on 4th December. The winners were No. 4 Company Irish Guards.

As requested, we are posting early this month on account of Christmas. So by being in time we wish to include with this month's notes our very best wishes for Christmas to all at home.

T.H.V.

A new form of Sport!!!

When asked recently what subscriptions to Regimental Sports' Fund the men of his Company were paying, a certain C.Q.M.S. replied: "3d. per head, per man, per month." It is to be wondered whether a new game has been introduced as the result of our proximity to the land of bull-fighting or, if it is an old form of sport revived, whether the C.Q.M.S. plays the part of Salome.

T.H.K.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES.

I must first wish everyone in the name of the Mess a Happy and a Prosperous New Year. We have had a very good month indeed as far as sport has been concerned. On Friday, 16th November we ran a dance in the Garrison Gymnasium, which was highly successful. All our officers attended, and great praise is due to C.S.M. Farrow who ran the dance, and his committee who worked so hard to make it a success. About the 18th November *H.M.S. Thunderer* arrived in port and we have been great pals with the C.P.O.'s and P.O.'s. We have had a crowd of them in the Mess every night, and they seem to quite make the place their home.

On Tuesday, 27th November they ran a Whist Drive and a social evening; we received an invitation and Sgts. Legge, Dixon, Burt, Goss, Barton and Palmer attended and they had a right royal time.

At Casemates Mess the Sergeants gave the Corporals the return billiard match on November 29th, and we were again successful, the scores are given below.

Another interesting little affair is the billiard match between the Members of the two Companies who are stationed at Casemates. The position is now one all. I can foresee a good night ahead when the final is played. We still continue our little social evenings at Casemates which continue to be well attended.

Several members and their families have been on board *H.M.S. Thunderer* on Sundays, and they have had an interesting time aboard, and have been well entertained.

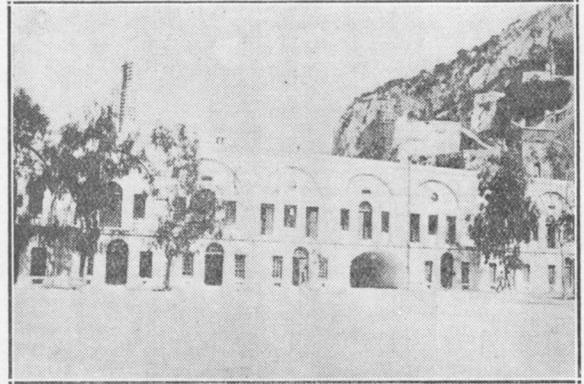
We welcome to our fold our new Band Master, B.M. Leach. May he enjoy the time he is with us, and may he stay with us as long or even longer than his predecessor.

We congratulate Sergt. Holman on gaining a distinguished at the Machine Gun School, Netheravon.

Several members have spent a Sunday afternoon in Spain, at *Ia-Lina*, a small village just over the border. I hope to be able to give an account of one of these trips soon.

Quite a number of us have been on a conducted tour of the rock, and have been surprised at what we have seen. We can realize now, what will happen should any foreign power be silly enough to attack Gibraltar.

Herewith a snap of the Grand Casemates Barracks, in the centre of which can be seen a tunnel which is known as the landport tunnel. Above the barracks can be seen some ruins which are the remains of an old Moorish Castle.



Grand Casemates Barracks, showing Moorish Castle above.

On Sunday, December 2nd, we said Good-bye to our friends from the *Thunderer*. The evening was spent in playing games, namely, ten minutes' billiards, which we won; blow football, which we won; and Poky-Die which we lost. A jolly fine evening, which came to an end too quickly.

We have met several members of the Sergeants' Mess of the Artillery who were stationed near the 2nd Battalion in India. They ask to be remembered to all Members of the Sergeants' Mess of the 2nd Battalion. They especially mentioned C.S.M. Vincer, D.C.M.

The Corporals at Casemates entertained us at their Social and Dance on Saturday, December 1st, and we spent another very enjoyable evening.

Everyone is now looking forward to the season of "Peace on Earth," a full account of which I will give in next month's notes.

BILLIARDS.

Corps. v. Sergts.

Sergeants' Score.		Corporals' Score.	
C.S.M. Mould	100	L/Cpl. Wyles	71
Sgt. Burt	100	Cpl. Bennett	93
C.S.M. Terry	100	L/Cpl. Cook	91
Sgt. Palmer	100	L/Cpl. Church	92
Sgt. Acres	83	L/Cpl. White	100
Totals	483		447

D Coy Sgts. v. B Coy. Sgts.

B Coy. Score.		D Coy. Score	
Sgt. Dixon	121	Sgt. Legg	126
" Burt	126	" Barton	122

Things we want to know.

- Is Sgt. Brooker stiff in Hospital?
- If Drummy found his rifle?
- What "Rayo" thinks of *Ia-Lina*?
- Who inspected each relief going out and coming in, and found them "sober and correct"?
- Who proposed a lift from Casemates Mess to the Married Quarters? And is it really needed?
- What is the Hebrew Section?
- Who was the fellow that Whiskers wanted to wake up, because he had his cut-off out?

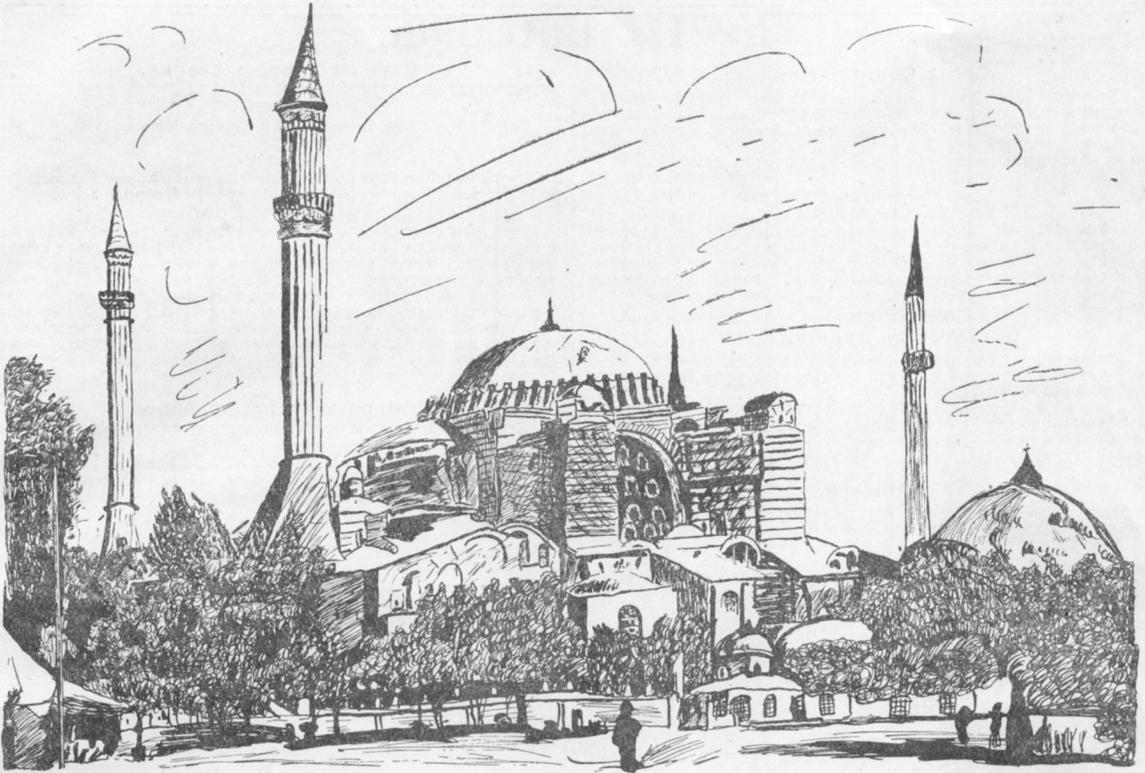
CORPORALS' MESS.

As I was closing the notes for last month a billiard tournament was taking place between the corporals and sergeants, the latter being the winners. Since then we have also played the sergeants at darts, the corporals being the lucky ones this time.

A concert and social takes place in the mess to-morrow, Saturday, December the 1st and we are all looking forward to a good time, as the Casemates Jazz Band will be in attendance. Everyone is quite settled here now and things are looking up in general.

Things we want to know.

- Who was the N.C.O. when taking P.T. Class who said "heels raise"?
- (Heels Sink).
- Is Micky volunteering for orderly corporal again or is he going to Aldershot on another P.T. course?
- When is Dasher going to write again, or is he buying a typewriter? (Most likely he is employing a Clerk).
- Did the "guard commander" find his sentries sober and correct?
- Does the order civilian boots must not be worn on duty effect everybody?
- Has Jim polished his medals lately?
- Who was the N.C.O. when asked the various methods of indicating targets said Rapid and Slow?



MOSQUE OF ST SOPHIE CONSTANTINOPLE By P.H. Leeds

Did Harry empty the glass that held (one of them) and did Tom smile?
Who was the N.C.O. who said carry your rifles at the small trail?

THE BAND.

Since the retirement of Mr. Elvin we have carried on the good work under the able direction of Cpl. Jones and later Sgt. Clayton, whose prowess with the baton is a source of universal admiration. He is none the less admired on the hockey field, as the undermentioned results shew, we are sure the Depot miss his capable services.

On the 27th November we welcomed our new Band Master, Mr. F. I. Leach, L.R.C.M. and family; we all hope he will soon settle down in his new capacity. Mrs. Meakin also joined us from U.K. and we hope "Archie" enjoys his early morning walks.

"Chalky" White has left us for the band of Princess Patricia's Regiment, stationed at Winnipeg. He was a sterling clarinet player, and a thorough sportsman. We all miss him but wish him the best of luck in the Dominion.

We have just finished our annual musketry and several tunics are feeling heavier.

Preparations for Christmas are already well in hand, our energetic and capable committee are working hard to ensure a bumper time for all.

Although we have a long tramp to the sports fields we have had several games and the Harris Shield competition is in full swing.

Hockey (Harris Shield).

"E" 14 v. "E" 23.

Quite an interesting game was witnessed on the Europa ground between the "friendly rivals," our team being successful by four goals to one. Scorers—Sgt. Clayton (2), Bdsm. Lewis and Collins.

"E" 14 v. "A" Coy.

We fielded the same team in this game on the North Front ground and gained a seven-nil victory. Jock Clayton played an excellent game at centre-forward, finding the net no fewer than four times, Lewis (2), Standen also found the goal.

Football.

v. H.M.S. "CORMORANT."

Played on the Naval ground our first Soccer match was a win by five goals to nil. Scorers:—Bdsm. Brookes (3), Lewis (2).

2ND XI. v. LINE-WALL COLLEGE.

In the first game we lost 2-1 but were victorious in the return game by three goals to nil.

Congratulations to Bdsm. Lewis and Lee in being selected for the Army v. Navy match.

Things we want to know.

Who was the bandsman who wanted to be fitted with ahoddall complete?

Is a ford car essential to a man's musketry course?

THE DRUMS.

News during this month is very short, especially in the way of sports. Very few matches were played. On the 12th November we played the M.G. Section, with a friendly match, which resulted in a draw by 0-0, and on the 18th a match with the "Dockyard Labs." on their ground, which resulted in a win for us, the score being 8-1, up to the half-time we held our own well, with the score of 6-0 in our favour, their only goal was scored by a penalty in the last five minutes. Aylward (our usual centre-forward) was sick and unable to play, so I/Cpl. Axton took his place, and scored four good goals during the match. Our third friendly match was played with Ex "Terres" on the 25th which also resulted in a win for us by 5-2.

Musketry Course.

We did well in our Annual Musketry Course with an average score of 137 points. We have 14 marksmen, and 10 1st Class shots.

F.R.

A COMPANY.

Just after we sent our last lot of notes to the press, we commenced to cater for our Christmas Dinner by purchasing some Turkeys—thinking it would lessen the cost of the "Annual Feed," but things have not worked out as per programme, as several of them have stopped breathing of their own accord, which is rather unfortunate as we shall have to get something to replace them—still, nothing ventured, nothing gained, and we are leaving it to the committee to see that we don't go short of anything. If they do it as well as it was done last year, we shall sing their praises in our next month's notes.

One or two of the Company will be spending Christmas at home this year, namely:—Cpl. Hadaway, Cpl. Willing, I/C. Fielder, Ptes. Gibbons, Supple and Swallow, we hope they all have a jolly good time and we wish them all we wish ourselves.

The Company has been made considerably stronger by a "Draft" from the 2nd Battalion. We trust they will soon get settled in their new home, and enjoy their tour round with the rest of us. Other arrivals to the Company are:—Cpl. Burgess, from Malta and Ptes. Beverley, Mortimer, Carpenter and Day from "E" Company. Certain people would be very interested to know why Pte. Day is always referred to as "Bangers" and we would be very much obliged if he himself would enlighten us before we go to the press again.

Bayonet Fighting.

Our team managed to pull off their fight with "C" Coy., by five fights three. We are hoping they will do as well against the other Companies.

Hockey.

We have lost one and won one. We lost rather badly to 14 Coy., but we beat B Coy. 5-2.

1st Battalion—Continued.**Cross Country Run.**

The inter-Platoon run took place on the last day of November, the result was No. 2 1st, No. 3 2nd, No. 1 3rd and No. 4 4th. The first man home was Crowhurst. We congratulate him on his performance.

We are wondering who are going to perform *this* Christmas, look out for next month's notes, you will see who they are.

THE SUBSTITUTE.

B COMPANY.

During the last month, "Casemates Barracks," has improved considerably, all having pulled pretty well together to make life what it ought to be. We owe a great deal to Sgt. Goss for the whist drive which took place in the early part of the month. Not too many turned up as was expected, but it was a great success and everyone who did attend spent a most enjoyable evening.

Weekly Dances.

During the month we have also held weekly dances which have been very much appreciated, not only by the rank and file but by many civilians from the city.

Again we have to thank Sgt. Goss for the work he always does to make them a success, and we also owe a great deal to Cpl. Bennett, and L/C. Powny, and the other members of the jazz band who have worked so well, and are now a very popular party in the barracks.

Hockey.

Early in the month "B" Company played "D" Company at hockey, the latter winning by three goals.

Running.

"B" Company came fourth in the Hoare Cup which was open to the whole garrison. The team consisted of Cpl. Hart, L/C. Pile, L/C. Wyles, Ptes. Mummery, Lee and Phillips.

Things we want to know.

- Who was the W.O. who told a squad to take a yard of thirty inches?
- And was it he who said "take a full short pace forward?"
- For what firm does one of the new arrivals advertise rear-lights?
- How does L/C. Richardson like physical jerks?
- Who was the officer who saluted a civilian? (And did the latter recognise the salute?)
- Why don't "B" Company use enamel basins?
- What is a Catula Frenchman?
- Who said it didn't rain in Gibraltar?
- Who was the N.C.O. who laughed at (Dripping?)

C COMPANY.**Bayonet Fencing League.**

1st Round versus "A" Coy. Lost.

Football.

Our Danker Team turned out for two practice games against the M.G.'s.

Hockey.

Owing to the weather and the condition of the ground our match v. E 23 and several practice games have had to be postponed.

Cross-Country Running.

The lads have trained well in their spare time, thanks to Sgt. Summers, but though we have a good team we don't stand much chance and who was it said he would not run because he got defaulters. Come on now, be a Sportsman and run for the Company's sake.

Now we are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner and Concert. We are wondering what we can get for a substitute for "Its poor that helps the poor." It was a good old song. I heard someone saying that now the RATA is going to start we shall not require so much beer, and who's putting the Coy. to bed this year. Anyway a Merry Christmas to All, and a Happy and prosperous New Year when it comes.

Things we want to know.

How long is it since Tin Openers are required for Opening Tin Loaves.

D COMPANY.

Now that the colder weather has set in, sports are now again in full swing, and we congratulate the coy. teams on doing so well up to the present and hope they will keep it up.

Hockey.

We were pleased when practically all the coy. turned out to support their team in the Harris Shield hockey, thereby contributing a great deal to their victory of two goals to one.

Football.

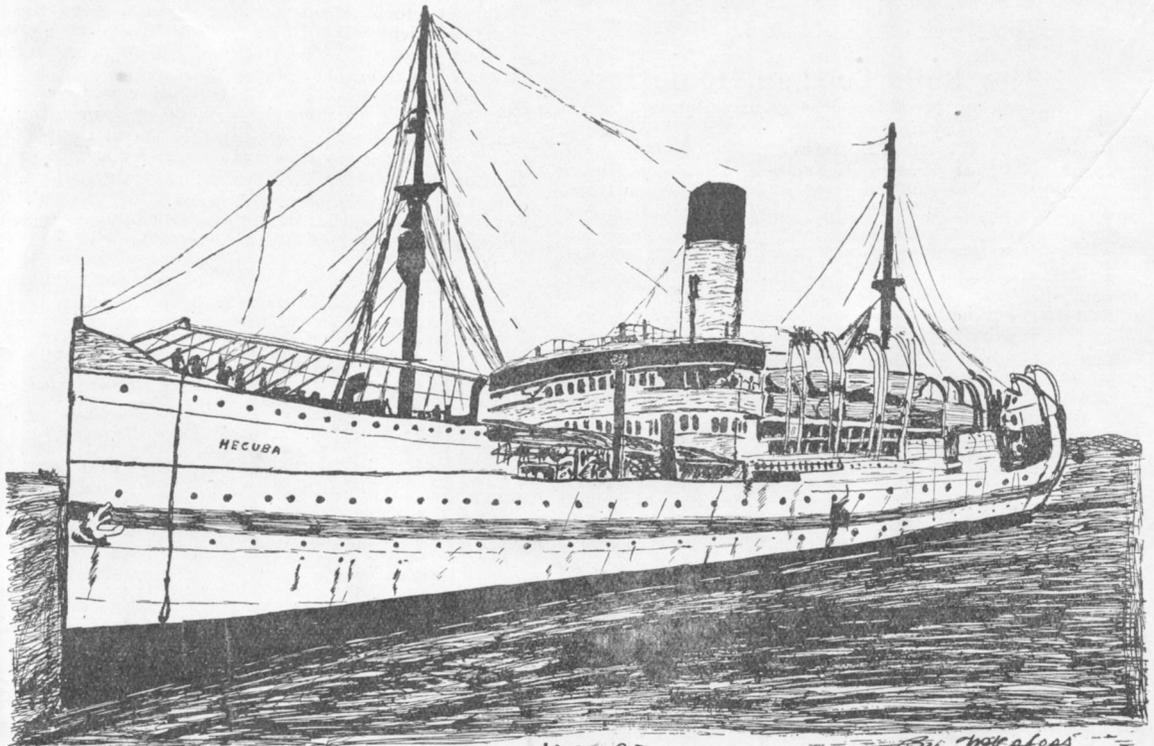
There have been several inter-platoon matches of football in which we have found some new talent, Greaves especially shows good form as a right-back, also as a right half at hockey, also Tunmadine is shewing better form, even, than last year and has all the dash of a centre-forward in both games.

Bayonet Fencing.

Some excitement prevailed at the Harris Shield bayonet fencing with "B" Coy. and, owing to a draw, team leaders had to have a bout, L/C. Hudson, our team leader, winning by one point.

Cross-Country Race.

We congratulate Chivers on his brilliant run in the Garrison Cross-Country (Mountains) race. The remainder of the team ran well too.



HM TROOPSHIP HECUBA.

Things we want to know.

Who was it when on Education was asked to fetch the Books "Life of Nelson," and "The Buffs War History," 1914-1918, replied: "Past and Present, Sergeant."

Why does Robo state his grievance against the coy. in deeds and not in words.

Who is the siamese twins?

Who was it when asked at what rate a bullet travelled, replied, I never timed it?

"What was the glorious news the Captain heard, and did he profit by the information?"

W.H.P.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON.

E COMPANY.

Gibraltar has all the comforts one needs.

Football.

Football is about the main sport here, but when a game has been arranged our team has to walk nearly two miles to the Garrison Sports Grounds at North Front.

Games of minor importance are played on the R.A.S.C. ground at the foot of the Irish Guards barracks.

The platoon played A Coy. at the R.A.S.C. ground and we showed good form and scored the first goal in the first ten minutes. But after the interval our back, of football fame, went and shot the ball into his own goal, thus the goal we secured just came in useful for a draw.

The Harris Shield has now begun—the first event being Hockey. The first game resulted in a win for our other half company (14 group) as the Headquarter Coy. is now divided up into two groups (14 and 23), (14) being composed of the Band and Drums and (23) being Machine Gunners and the odds and ends of the Coy.

On the 17th of November we played the 24 Coy. R.G.A. on their own ground and lost to them by four goals to one. A well-earned victory.

Hockey.

Our first match in the Harris Shield (23 group) was against 14 Coy. (or group) in which we lost by 4-1.

We managed to get the first goal but couldn't get going afterwards so we went to rack and ruin.

Our team consists of C.S.M. Farrow, Q.M.S. Hills, R.Q.M.S. Evans, Sgt. Truly, Cpl. Cornwall, L/C. Mount, Ptes. Brudenall, Beck, Hogben, Corrigan and Pte. Himpton, our goal-keeper.

Lt. Reid and Sergeant Holman were distinguished and Cpl. Elliott qualified on the Course of (Machine Gun) at Netheravon.

We wish them a happy Christmas after their success.

By the way can anyone tell us "who was the C.S.M. who saluted the new bandmaster on his arrival in Gibraltar?"

Who was the man who put in a pass for China for one day only?

The Buffs Cottage Homes.

IT was about the end of 1900 or beginning of 1901 it occurred to Mrs. Papillon of Crowhurst Park, Sussex, who was then Secretary of the County Regimental Cottage Homes in London, that the Isle of Thanet would be an ideal situation for a Cottage Home on account of its unrivalled air and health giving properties.

She therefore put forward a proposal to the late Mrs. Friend, of Northdown, near Margate, who was at that time President of the Local Branch of the Soldiers and Sailors' Families' Association.

The result of this interview was that Mr. Friend most generously offered the gift of land near Margate on which to build a Cottage—on condition that it should be allotted to the Buffs, in which Regiment two of his sons were then serving.

A Committee was formed consisting of Colonel—now Brigadier General R. A. Hickson, C.B., commanding 3rd Regimental District, as Chairman, Mrs. Friend, Hon. Treasurer, Miss E. Friend, Hon. Secretary and Mrs. Herbert Bull of Wellington House, Westgate, Major Tylden Patterson, the Vicar of St. Peter's, Thanet, The Officers Commanding 1st and 2nd Battalions The Buffs—as Members.

An appeal for Funds was made, and amongst those who were approached was Mr. Thomas Brooke of the Convent, Kingsdown. On being asked for a subscription he said—"Now"—what was the good of one Home? They must have two—so that the occupants could quarrel and make friends." He therefore made an offer that if Funds could be raised for the one—he would undertake to defray the expenses of a second.

Funds were soon forthcoming, being largely subscribed for in Thanet. Mrs. Bull took great interest in the project and for three or four years the boys of Wellington House gave half the profits of their Christmas entertainment for this purpose.

It is much to be regretted that Mr. Brooke did not live to see the realisation of his scheme, since he died before the money for the first Cottage was raised. However his brother, Mr. Clifford Brooke—being aware of his wishes—most loyally gave effect to them and sent a cheque to meet the expenses for the erection of a second Cottage.

These two homes were opened in August, 1902 by Colonel R. A. Hickson.

At the opening ceremony the following were amongst those present:—

Colonel and Mrs. Hickson, Miss Hickson, Colonel J. Backhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Friend, Miss Friend, Miss E. Friend, Mr. Arthur Friend, Mr. Irvine Friend, Rev. Herbert and Mrs. Bull, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Brooke, Rev. and Mrs. Johnson, Colonel and Mrs. J. Laird Irvine, Mrs. Ravenhill, Mrs. Paul, Capt. G. de B. Mairis, Capt. Barker, and Major F. Bradley Dyne.

Some two or three years later the 1st and 2nd Battalions, with the help of old Buffs, erected two more homes side by side with the two already completed—the land on which they were built being again made over as a gift to the Regiment by the late Mr. Friend. In the deed of Gift, which was drawn up on his instructions, Mr. Friend made it conditional that in the event of the Regiment having no further use for the Cottages—they were to revert to the Farm on which they were situated. This Farm has since been sold, so the Cottages and land are the property of the Regiment. The original Trustees were Brigadier-General R. A. Hickson, Rev. Renfry Brooks, Lt. Col. R. S. I. Friend, and the late Captain George Friend, who was killed in action during the late war.

General Sir Julius Raines, K.C.B., Colonel of The Buffs, performed the opening ceremony to the two Cottages, which were dedicated to the memory of Lt. Colonel Bryan Holme, who died whilst in command of the 1st Battalion The Buffs.

This short account of the inception and completion of these Homes will it is hoped be of some interest to those Buffs who have not hitherto learnt their history.

The Regiment will always be under a debt of deep gratitude to the late Mr. Friend for the gift of land, on which these Cottages are built—to the late Mrs. Friend and to all the members of their family—especially to Miss Friend (now Mrs. Cockroft)—who for nearly ten years, in her capacity as Hon. Secretary, devoted so much time and labour in looking after the welfare and comfort of the occupants.

"Horses!" said the Yankee. "Guess you can't talk to me about horses. I had an old mare, Maizyppop, who once licked our best express by a couple of miles on a thirty-mile run to Chicago."

"That's nothing," said the Canadian. "I was out on my farm one day, about fifty miles from the house, when a frightful storm came up. I turned the pony's head for home, and, do you know, he raced the storm so close for the last ten miles that I didn't feel a drop, while my old dog, only ten yards behind, had to swim the whole distance."

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Some Reminiscences (Continued).

BY COLONEL R. S. H. MOODY, C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

Life in Pietermaritzburg.

FOR some little time life in Pietermaritzburg was a fairly tranquil existence and very pleasant for the Officers; though perhaps a little monotonous for the men. The practice of living three or four together in little houses with nice gardens and with the soldier servants in the same house was a change from barrack life and resulted in considerable intimacy with Colonial neighbours but the great source of enjoyment was that everybody kept a horse or horses. This was necessary in the Natal of the seventies when no railway existed and neither motors nor modern bicycles were invented.

Polo at this period, though known in India and at home, was only a very rarely played game and unheard of in the Colonies, so, having horses, everyone gave their attention to hunting. A pack of fox hounds which hunted a small antelope called a Dyker was in existence when The Buffs arrived and this was taken over and greatly improved by our people. Poppy Wyld was master and Tommy Hamilton and young Taffy Lewis, both light weights, acted as whips. There were in the Station, both a small detachment of artillery and a company of the 13th P.A.O. Light Infantry and their officers joined gladly with our own to make the sport a success. Later on we had the 80th foot also.

Another cause of enjoyment was the presence of fairly numerous settlers or Farmers within say twenty miles of the town. These on Saturdays, when they came into market, were often invited to lunch in the Officers' Mess, where they generally did themselves well and in return were always glad to see us upon their farms.

These luncheons were sometimes perhaps too generous and I mention the following as an example and to show the longevity under starvation conditions of a dog.

One Saturday, a farmer, accompanied by a beautiful pointer bitch, came to lunch with Bobby Martin who, being on some duty, directed me to receive his guest and attend to his wants for a few minutes. The man asked me to find a place to confine his bitch and she was shut in a disused stable at the bottom of the mess garden by her master himself. Thirty-seven days after this, I, being close to the old stable, heard a faint moan, broke open the door and discovered the poor beast alive but a mere skeleton covered with fleas. She could not walk and I carried her to my cottage and ministered to her so that she completely recovered, when I had to return her to her loving master.

It was the common custom of these farmers to organise one or two Annual shoots on their farms where perhaps a hundred Kaffir retainers would drive the buck, etc., towards the guns, which were usually stationed between a river and the Kranz or precipice which Kranzes top nearly every hill side. Not long after our arrival at Pietermaritzburg the first draft arrived from home under the command of Captain "Bob" Forster who had exchanged battalions with Captain Hickson. The men forming this draft were to us a new kind of soldier—"Cardwellian 33 inches round the chests" as they were contemptuously styled because not only were they all six year instead of 21 year service men but the old standard of measurement had been reduced. Moreover, as a rule, the boys were very young. I suppose there must have been good trade and consequently bad recruiting in England at this time for with some very notable exceptions, the new soldier was not up to the old standard and there is no doubt that many individuals were from the gaols and reformatories for crime statistics went up with a bound. Furthermore the 80th regiment, which joined us in Pietermaritzburg about this time, had an exactly similar experience.

Insubordinate language was very common and was often used in the Court martial room itself. Indeed some of these fellows' answers to the C.O. or to a court were quite comical but generally unprintable. However here are a couple of mild examples.

A field officer of the 80th was president of a court martial and one of our youngsters was being tried. Evidence was given by Sergt. Slattery of The Buffs, who was quite remarkable for his peculiar grating voice. When the statement had been committed to writing and read, the president asked the prisoner (as the "accused" used to be called) if he had any question to ask the witness. "Yes Sir," was the reply of the youth as he sprang smartly to attention. "What is it? Put your question to me and I will question the Sergeant."

"I wish to ask the Sergeant Sir why he did not take a Korf Lorzege before he came here to give evidence." Again, a man was being tried who had been made a prisoner by one of our Lieutenants when orderly officer and this subaltern had, by some error, been appointed a member of the court. "Do you object to be tried by me as president or by any of the officers whose names you have heard read?" came the usual question.

"I object to the whole sanguinary lot of you and particularly to that orderly beggar in the corner" was the reply.

It must have been shortly after the arrival of the battalion in Natal that Colonel Pearson was appointed commandant of that Colony in addition to his regimental duties and had to select a District Adjutant as his staff officer.

His choice fell on Lieut. A. C. Jackson so I became battalion Adjutant in his place before my 23rd birthday.

This now-a-days would appear to be very young for such a job, more especially as in the old days the adjutant had many more duties to perform than he has now-a-days because the battalion and not the Company used to be the first and principal training unit.

It must be remembered, however, that an adjutant lost his job on promotion to Captain and it was more convenient to have a youngster and keep him for some years than to be always changing, as would be the case if senior Lieutenants were generally appointed. R. G. Kekewich, lately our Colonel, got the Adjutantcy of the First Battalion about the same time and he had less service than I had.

Examinations for promotion came into being about now and, while adjutant, I was examined for my company by Colonel Amiel of the 80th, his Major and a Field Major of Artillery. I was asked I think twenty questions on the Queen's Regulations, all routine matter that cropped up daily in the orderly room; and I had to drill the 80th Foot. "Slope Arms—Left wheel into Line—Quick March" was the commencement of all drill and then Major Tyler asked Col. Amiel what he wished Mr. Moody to do. "Mr. Moody knows his drill better than either you or I" replied the Colonel. "Let him go" and that was all the exam. I ever did at this time.

Several well-known officers joined the 2nd Battalion at Pietermaritzburg. First came Johnny Hughes and Middleton, then A. J. W. Allen, now Brigadier-General, Corry Connellan and Blackburn came together. C. B. Vyyvan late C.O. of the first battalion and Evelyn who died in Zululand.

ROYAL RIFLES OF CANADA.

The King has approved of the Royal Rifles of Canada being shown in the Army List as allied to the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

The 2nd Battalion.



BY the time these notes are in the hands of our readers, Christmas, with the goose always getting fat, and the New Year will have come and gone. To a few of us it will be our first Christmas at home since the Armistice.

When Christmas and the New Year do dawn, our numbers inside the Citadel will be few. The M.G. Platoon have already gone on their month's furlough, whilst C and D Companies follow on the 22nd together with the Signal Section.

In the work line, A and B Companies have completed their Weapon Training Course, whilst C and D Companies are in the midst of theirs. The Section Leader's Course for the Junior N.C.O.'s of

C and D Companies has also finished.

As regards events that have happened since we last wrote, one item stands out very prominent and that was a lecture on November 19th in the Gymnasium, on Captain Scott's Antarctic Expedition, given by Captain Evans, R.N., who was amongst the few to see the last of Captain Scott before his heroic death. To all of us it was unique to hear such a lecture on that famous Antarctic Expedition, illustrated as it was by excellent slides and a series of moving pictures at the end. To many of us it must have been one of the most interesting lectures we had ever heard. The lecturer received a great ovation at the end.

Turning to the Sports line, the Battalion played Weymouth College at Rugger, on November 23rd, but got beaten 22 points to nil by a team which combined much better than we did. On the 28th we played the Tank Depot, from Wool, and won 12 points to 3. Our backs played together more than they had ever done before, whilst in the scrum Captain Hamilton and Lieut. Lister were very conspicuous.

The evenings of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the week commencing December 3rd were the scenes of great activity at the Gymnasium, the cause being the Open, Novices, and Boys' Boxing Competition organised by Lieut. Lister. We pen an account of it elsewhere. On December 11th our Battalion Hockey team went over to Bournemouth to play the 2nd Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the 2nd round of the Army Hockey Cup. We won a very thrilling match, L/Cpl. Tutt getting our winning goal in the last five minutes.

The weather has been a good deal calmer during the last fortnight and the "Stormy Winds" of which we have had some experience have been much less frequent of late.

BOXING COMPETITION.

This took place at the Gymnasium on the evenings of December 3rd, 4th, and 5th and was open to the whole Battalion. The competition was divided into three classes—Open, Novices and Boys. A novice was defined as one who has not won a fight outside his Regimental Depot. All the arrangements were very well organised by Lieut. Lister and three excellent evenings fighting were witnessed. What the outside world thought of it can be judged by the following extract from the *Dorset Daily Press* which writes as follows:—"It is many years since the Gymnasium at the Verne has seen such boxing as was witnessed there during the first three evenings of the week."

In the Open Competition Dr. Bowman (Drums), who has come on a lot lately won the Welters after a very close fight with L/C. Jewell (D) in the Final. L/C. Foad (C) proved too good in the Light Weights and won without much difficulty, as also did Pte. O'Neill (C) in the Feather Weights. L/C. Trice (D) and Pte. Allen (C) had a fine set to in the Final of the Middle, the latter just winning on points.

In the Novices some promising talent was discovered among whom may be mentioned Pte. Viney (Drums) in the Bantams, Pte. Brown (C) L/C. Jarvis (B), Pte. Beale (C) and Pte. Hover (C) in the Feathers, Pte. Bell (D) and Pte. Martin (A) in the Lights, Pte. Gosling (A), L/C. Sawkins (Drums) in the Welters and Pte. Gudgeon (A) in the Middle Weights.

Turning lastly to the Boys' competition, Boy Perry (Drums), Boy Banks (Drums), Boy Catt (Band) and Boy Watts (Drums) showed much promise, Boy Banks fighting his way to the Final with much pluck and enthusiasm, but found Boy Parry too much for him in the Final. At the end the Commanding Officer distributed the prizes and afterwards called for three cheers for the competitors, which were heartily given.

Before ending we would like to mention that L/C. Sawkins (Drums) entered the Final of the Welters with much damaged hands and had to retire at the end of the 2nd round—a plucky effort and the real sporting spirit.

Much credit is due to those who helped in the arrangements and thus made the competition a great success.

OPEN COMPETITION.

Feather Weights.

SEMI-FINAL.

Pte. Hansom (C) W.O. L/C. Millar (A).
Pte. O'Neill (C) beat L/C. McLaren on pts.

FINAL.

Pte. O'Neill beat Pte. Hansom on pts.

Light Weights.

SEMI-FINAL.

L/C. Foad (C) beat Pte. Harper (Band) in 2nd round.
L/C. Tomlin (D) Bye.

FINAL.

L/C. Foad K.O. L/C. Tomlin in 1st round.

Welter Weights.

SEMI-FINAL.

Dr. Bowman (Drums) beat Pte. Hudgell (B) on pts.
L/C. Jewell (D) K.O. L/C. Wilkins (A) in 2nd round.

FINAL.

Dr. Bowman beat L/C. Jewell on pts.

Middle Weights.

FINAL.

Pte. Allen (C) beat L/C. Trice (D) on pts.

NOVICES COMPETITION.

Bantam Weights.

1ST SERIES.

L/C. Parberry (A) beat Bds. Fieldsend (Band) on pts.
Pte. Viney (Drums) K.O. Pte. Hodges (A) in 2nd round.

SEMI-FINAL.

Pte. Viney (Drums) beat L/C. Parberry in the 1st round.
Pte. Parker (B) beat Pte. Barton (D) on pts.

FINAL.

Pte. Viney K.O. Pte. Parker in 2nd round.

Feather Weights.

1ST SERIES.

Pte. Brown (C) beat Pte. Lawrence in 1st round.
Pte. Hogben (B) beat Pte. White (C).
Pte. Parker (Drums) beat Pte. Jackson (C) on pts.
L/C. Jarvis (B) K.O. Pte. Fulwood (C) in 1st round.
Pte. Beale (C) beat Pte. Gilbert (C) in 1st round.
Byes, Pte. Miles (A), Pte. Clarke (D), Pte. Hover (C).

2ND SERIES.

Pte. Brown (C) beat Pte. Hogben (B) in 1st round.
L/C. Jarvis (B) beat Pte. Parker (Drums) in 1st round.
Pte. Beale (C) W.O. Pte. Miles (A).
Pte. Hover (C) K.O. Pte. Clarke (D) in 2nd round.

SEMI-FINALS.

Pte. Brown beat L/C. Jarvis on pts.
Pte. Beale K.O. Pte. Hover in 1st round.

FINAL.

Pte. Brown beat Pte. Beale on pts.

Light Weights.

1ST SERIES.

Pte. Bell (D) K.O. Pte. Baker (A) in 2nd round.

2ND SERIES.

Pte. Bell (D) beat Pte. Dolbear in 1st round.
Pte. Foad (C) beat Pte. Betts (C) on pts.
Pte. Church (C) beat Pte. Fry (C) on pts.
Pte. Rutty (C) beat Pte. Tarbox (Drums) on pts.
Pte. Martin (A) K.O. Pte. Mitchell (C) in 2nd round.
Pte. Stocker (D) beat Pte. Davies (C) on pts.
Pte. Pinver (A) beat Pte. Handscomb (C) on pts.
Pte. Chisnall (Band) beat Pte. Styles (A) on pts.

3RD SERIES.

Pte. Bell K.O. Pte. Foad in 2nd round.
Pte. Rutty beat Pte. Church on pts.
Pte. Martin beat Pte. Stocker on pts.
Pte. Chisnall W.O. Pte. Pinver.

SEMI-FINAL.

Pte. Bell beat Pte. Rutty on pts.
Pte. Martin beat Pte. Chisnall on pts.

FINAL.

Pte. Bell beat Pte. Martin on pts.

2nd Battalion—Continued.**Welter Weights.****1ST SERIES.**

Pte. Gosling (A) beat Pte. Adams (A).
Pte. Pitt (A) beat Pte. Goldsack (C) on pts.

2ND SERIES.

Pte. Gosling (A) beat Pte. Pitt in 1st round.
L/C. Coreham (A) W.O. Pte. Blackman (A).
Pte. Maynard (C) beat L/C. Balaam (A) on pts.
Pte. Miller (Drums) beat Pte. Fox (D) on pts.
Pte. Bradford (Drums) beat Pte. Mavcock (A).
L/C. Sawkins (Drums) K.O. Pte. Stuart (A) in 1st round.
Pte. Stocker (D) K.O. Pte. Adams W. (A) in 1st round.
Pte. Trebell (C) W.O. Pte. Lacey (C).

3RD SERIES.

Pte. Gosling (A) K.O. L/C. Coreham (A).
Pte. Maynard (C) W.O. Pte. Trebell (C).
Pte. Bradford (Drums) W.O. Pte. Miller (Drums).
L/C. Sawkins (Drums) beat Pte. Stocker (D) on pts.

SEMI-FINAL.

Pte. Gosling W.O. Pte. Maynard.
L/C. Sawkins K.O. Pte. Bradford in 2nd round.

FINAL.

Pte. Gosling beat L/C. Sawkins who retired hurt.

Middle Weights.**1ST SERIES.**

L/C. Warren (D) W.O. Pte. Edwards (C).
Byes, Pte. Ingram (C), Pte. Gudgeon (A), Pte. Mathews (C).

SEMI-FINAL.

Pte. Ingram (C) beat L/C. Warren on pts.
Pte. Gudgeon (A) K.O. Pte. Mathews (C) in 1st round.

FINAL.

Pte. Gudgeon K.O. Pte. Ingram in 1st round.

Heavy Weights.**FINAL.**

Pte. Jordan (C) K.O. Pte. Taylor (A) in 1st round.

Boys under 8 Stone.**1ST SERIES.**

Boy Smith (Band) beat Boy Ashley (Drums) on pts.
Boy Banks (Drums) beat Boy Hawkins (Band) on pts.
Boy Perry (Drums) beat Boy King (Band) in 1st round.
Boy Manning (Band) beat Boy Pullinger (Drums) in 2nd round.

SEMI-FINAL.

Boy Banks beat Boy Smith on pts.
Boy Perry beat Boy Manning on pts.

FINAL.

Boy Perry beat Boy Banks on pts.

Boys under 9 Stone.**SEMI-FINALS.**

Boy Pottle (Drums) beat Boy Dudman (Band) in 3rd round.
Boy Brambleby (Band) beat Boy Hills (Drums) on pts.
Boy Catt (Band) beat Boy Watts (Drums) on pts.
Boy Brambleby beat Boy Pottle in 2nd round.

FINAL.

Boy Catt W.O. Boy Brambleby.

Hockey.

On Saturday, November 17th, we played the 1st Round of the Army Hockey Cup against 4th Battalion The Tank Corps on the Naval Ground and won 10-1.

For the first ten minutes of the game our opponents looked distinctly dangerous and the ball was hardly ever out of our "25." However, thanks to yeoman work on the part of our goal-keeper and backs we prevented them scoring. Since the Battalion reformed in 1919, the side has always been at its very worst in the very early stage of the game. However, after the first bad bit the team really got down to it and played "All out." Lt. Cartwright, Cpl. Ward and L/Cpl. Tutt were all shooting hard and from the most amazing angles with deadly accuracy. The former came back from his Course at Chisleton for the day to play in the match and as usual he "lead" the forward line with his accustomed skill. In matches when he is away the other insides always seem to suffer from the disease of selfishness though Cpl. Ward's passes out to his wing are always all that could be desired. Lt. Hoare is a really fast winger and the fact that he has been tried for Dorset gives an idea of his play. After we had established our moral superiority goals came thick and fast, though our opponents were always going hard but could make little or no headway against our defence. Individually they were good but they haven't played long enough together and their shooting was weak. We have got the 15th Sikhs whom we used to play nearly every day in Kirkuk to thank for making us into a team.

The halves all pulled their weight, Capt. Rice having a "day out," and altogether the team was quite at the top of its form.

The Team was as follows—

Sgt. Sidwell, M.M., Pte. Lee, Cpl. Pack, Capt. N. D. Rice, Lt. T. A. Penlington, Cpl. Beal, Lt. N. E. Hoare, Cpl. Ward, Lt. J. Cartwright, I./Cpl. Tutt, 2/Lt. C. Haggard.

The Buffs v. H.M.S. Revenge.

On the 21st November we played *H.M.S. Revenge*, who incidentally are extremely pleased with the "Dragon" cigar lighter given them by the 1st Battalion, and got beaten 5-6.

I suppose Saturday's match form could not be achieved twice running and everybody was a trifle off colour, with the exception of L/Cpl. Tutt.

We had a great game. Our opponents' forwards, especially the inside-left were fast and never missed a chance when given to them and to this we owe our defeat.

It is perhaps a thoroughly good thing for us to take a beating with our next Army Cup match coming on shortly.

Cpl. Ward and Lt. Hoare combined well as usual.

The team was as follows:—Sgt. Sidwell, M.M., Pte. Lee, Cpl. Farr, Capt. N. D. Rice, Lt. T. N. Penlington, Cpl. Beal, Lt. N. E. Hoare, Cpl. Ward, L/Cpl. Tutt, Pte. Greenland, Lt. W. H. Rowe.

T.N.P.

Football.**ARMY CUP.**

Our first match in the Army Cup was against The Tank Corps Workshops on the Portland United's Ground, which we hired for the occasion. There was a very good attendance, all people in uniform being allowed in the enclosure free of charge, civilians, of course, having to pay gate money. The Tank Corps brought over roughly about 400 supporters and we had about the same. Intense excitement prevailed the whole time and it was difficult to hear one's self speak for the noise of clappers which our men had provided and the cries and cheers of the crowd urging on their respective teams. The band, conducted by Bandmaster C. B. Hewitt, played on the ground. They kicked off at 2.30 p.m. on November 23rd and we started well by running down towards our opponents' goal. A ding-dong battle ensued all through the first half. Our opponents took a long shot from the half way line which our goalie misjudged which gave them their first goal. At the beginning of the second half Sgt. Sidwell equalised by a beautiful drop shot and it looked as though it would be a draw, but about the last quarter of an hour we seemed to go all to pieces and our opponents scored three more goals beating us by 4 goals to 1. Sgt. Sidwell played a magnificent game and was easily the star turn of the game. Jess Wellard and Cpl. Farr played splendidly and Ruby Jewell worked hard. Mullinger played well but he had a big man up against him so could not do much. Tutt is inclined to be greedy and tried to rush through on his own too much instead of passing to his wings, the left wing was absolutely starved. Our team was as follows:—Sgt. Smith, Goal. Backs: Wellard and Cpl. Farr. Half-backs: L/C. Jewell, Sgt. Sidwell and White. Forwards: Mullinger, Foade, Tutt, Day and Godden.

Our next match was against The Depot, The Dorset Regiment at Dorchester in a friendly. They were not a very strong team and Lt. Rowe bombarded their goal, though without success. L/C. Jewell scored the only goal of the match from a free kick, thereby giving us a win by 1-0. Ruby Jewell, Patsy Stocker and White all played well. The backs and goalie did not have much to do. The afternoon was finished off by the team being given "High Tea" in the Sergeants' Mess at the Depot Dorset Regimental Sergeants' Mess.

Our team was as follows:—Goal: Sgt. Smith; Backs: Wellard and Cpl. Farr; Half-backs: Stocker, Jewell and White; Forwards: Mullinger, Lt. Rowe, Lt. Penlington, Day and C/Sgt. Jones. O.S.

THE BAND.

A hearty welcome to our new arrivals, Boys Webster and Jones, With the sound training they will receive from the 2nd Battalion and both will undoubtedly turn out musicians of good standing.

FOOTBALL.

On the 7-11-1923 the Boys played the Grove Rovers, a team from Eastern with a good reputation. The game was keen throughout and was a splendid display of 1st class football. Boy Ashton scored two splendid goals, one being a fine drop shot from about 20 yds. range, Boy Watts also scored two fine goals. After a strenuous game, the Band Boys turned out the winners by 4 goals to 2. Other games were with the Machine Gun Section second XI., resulting with a win for the boys of 4-1.

The band first eleven have been showing fine form with their football lately, "A" Company turned out a powerful team which was defeated by 4 goals. Other matches were with "D" Company and the Borstal Officers, both being very strong teams, however after a good display, we managed to draw both games.

Congratulations to Boy Catt on winning his weight at the Regimental Boxing Tournament.

"SEMI-QUAVER."

Things we want to know.

Who were the two boys who brought a dixie of "Clagger" from the mess room and had a feast after "Lights Out."

Have Pimlico run out of Reds for our "Tiny"?

THE SIGNALS.

The Signals are still going strong and by the time these notes appear, we shall have had our leave and once more settled down to our usual routine.

Football.

We have played the M.G.'s a game, and succeeded in snatching the laurels from them, with a score of 2-1. It was a well-contested match, although it was raining hard and our old enemy, the wind, was doing its worst.

1st Battalion Signals.

We should like to see a line in the *Dragon* from some of our old friends in the 1st Battalion Signals. Is Darkey Dawson still there, and what does Cpl. Vale think about it?

We tender our congratulations to Pte. Harris, on joining the ranks of the Benedicts and there is no doubt that he will make a success of things with his new C.O.

Things we want to know.

What did Robert mean when he said, "Two thoughts of one think?"
 How do "Flo" and May enjoy their weekly visit to the Jubilee, and is it just Platonic.
 Who tossed the Crotchah Band boy for a half-penny, and when he won it, kept it?
 How are the three rejected suitors taking things?
 Do they believe in the harmony of love?
 How long has China been the capital of Hong-Kong?
 How many young? "Lidys" know Nobby?
 What would certain persons put in here, if I were not correspondent?
 T.E.P.

H.Q. WING.

In this month our only match was against *H.M.S. Viscount* played on our ground when we won 5-2. Our opponents scored their two goals in the first ten minutes, but as soon as our team settled down we showed our superiority. Chalky White and Atkins played well. For the backs Bill Meddle played well. Parker, in the second half, when he went outside left, played quite well. Our goal scorers were Atkins, Parker, McGrath.

Our team was as follows:—*Goal*: Sgt. Smith; *Backs*: Wellard and Meddle; *Half-backs*: Conisbee, Baker and White; *Forwards*: McGrath, Knapp, Atkins, Parker, Godden.

O.S.

B GROUP, H.Q. WING.

Our first match this month was against "A" Coy., which we won 2-0. Both our goals were scored in the first half. The first by Atkins from a low drive and the second by Lt. Penlington also from a low drive. It was quite a good game and fairly evenly matched. Chalky White played a splendid game at centre half. Walls played a hard game and worried our opponents a lot. Atkins adopted his usual rushing tactics very successfully.

Our team was as follows:—*Goal*: Dove; *Backs*: Wellard and Walls; *Half-backs*: Conisbee, White and Moss; *Forwards*: Knapp, Brown, Lt. Penlington, Atkins and Parker.

In our next match we met D Coy who beat us 6-1. Our forwards did not have their shooting boots on. Chalky White played a splendid game at centre half, and was almost run off his feet. Wellard also had a busy time of it, our left-back being weak. Atkins tried hard but only scored one. Fanny Knapp is improving at outside right.

Our team was as follows:—*Goal*: Dove; *Backs*: Wellard, Reynolds; *Half-backs*: Conisbee, White, and Walls; *Forwards*: Knapp, Brown, Atkins, Moss, Godden.

O.S.

M.G. PLATOON.**Football.**

The Cranckhandle Athletics played D Coy. in which we won 4-1. Rockbunder played a fine bustling game at right half, and our opponents were careful to keep clear of our danker Captain, Midgy Walls, who played back. Chippie Austen was in goal owing to Wilfred being on the injured list, otherwise the team was the same as usual. All the gunners are going on leave on the 12th for their annual month's leave so we hope to have more news in February's *Dragon*.

Pets' Corner.

A great catastrophe occurred to one of the pets at Weymouth Fair. Wilfred was up in the Shearplanes with fairy Foster when a chain broke and poor Wilfred was thrown out and was picked up unconscious on the ground and taken to Weymouth Hospital. Fairy Foster said he tried to grab his ears and hang on to him but was unable to catch him. Fortunately he only sustained cuts on the side of his face which is almost a miracle and he is now out of hospital, and except for a few scars is alright again. He is now known as "Orrible Budge." Angeline was up at The Buffs' Dinner when it happened and was so distressed when she heard about it that she had to have an extra pint to revive her. Percy, the Pigeon, also known as De De, is teaching Angeline the art of self-defence so that she can better control the pets and she is coming on famously. Already the pets are getting "wind-up." It was noticed that the Duchess of Weymouth (Cow Annie) had new clothes on. Aunt Emma and Wopski have been seen with her lately, I do not know if this has anything to do with it.

O.S.

Things we want to know.

Who is it that thought Rugby was played with a football?
 Has the same person had any interest on his 30/- yet, and does he think it was worth it?

How does Fuller like having a Regimental haircut and getting out of bed at Reveille! It comes rather strange to these Staff Wallahs.
 Why does L/Cpl. Pearce look under men's beds at night-time with an electric torch. Is he looking for the philosophers' stone or stray washing bowls?

Who was it that said "You all slight fy of things and have no sporting insects" and how many pints had he had?

Who was it that gave old Bill Bailey a 1d. to buy the only box of matches he has ever been known to buy and who pinched them five minutes later?

Who was it that took a girl to a dance and took her money to pay to go in?

Who was it said "He was charged with unsilations to a N.C.O.?"
 Is it right that Cpl. Beale has invented a new dance known as "The Reveille Two Step?"

Who was it said, when he received a telegram, "I thought my Mother was dead as I recognised her writing?"

Heard in conversation: "Damn England, roll on London."
 Has Dusty Miller learnt the double tap yet and has he had any more introductious lately?

Is Dusty Miller a collector of antique whisky glasses and did he arrive home with a whisky glass in his pocket after The Buffs' Dinner.
 How long had Dusty been training in the kick step as he did it very smartly going up towards Piccadilly after the dinner?

Who was the woman-hater who blew kisses to the Canteen Girls?
 Who was the long and short of it at the Easton Dance and did the "short of it" enjoy her taxi drive with the two Johns one night?

O.S.

PRIVATE'S' DANCE.

Dancing being quite the rage in Portland at present, the Privates—not to be outdone in this respect—gave two splendid dances in the Gymnasium on November 23rd and December 7th. The attendance on both nights was excellent, in spite of inclement weather, and everything went off without a hitch.

The Gymnasium was tastefully decorated by Bdsm. Cary, Corpl. Coombs, Pte. Stocken and Pte. Deverson, "assisted by" anybody who was rash enough to put his nose inside the Gym. before the dance started!

The dance band, under Sergt. Barsotti, was all a dance band ought to be, and the Refreshment bar under the capable hands of Sergt. Wittingham, did full justice to the occasion.

Corpl. Martin and Lance-Corpl. Burton made excellent M.C.'s and we also had the assistance of C.S.M. Simon who is second to none as an organiser of Social entertainments, so that in every way it can be safely said that no better dance has been given in the Gymnasium since The Buffs arrived in Portland.

A COMPANY.

Since our last letter we have seen some good Boxing, and were glad to see how well the Company did. We hope the Company will put up as good a show when they fight for the Harris Shield.

Football.

We are very pleased to see how well the Company's football team is getting together.

We all congratulate Lt. Rowe on his good play last Saturday for the Regimental team and we hope he will keep his place in the team.

C.S.M. Sayer and Sgt. Shoobridge have gone on leave, and we hope they will have a good time.

Things we would like to know.

Who is the person testing his pocket knife, by cutting down the clothes lines in the Married Quarters.

We hear that some of the women wear the stripes now (when are they doing the first Parade).

Is old Buffy pleased with his new job?

We hear old Tubby's chest sticks out a lot since his name went in for the (L.S. Gong).

S.C.H.

C COMPANY.**Boxing.**

The fine spirit exhibited by the Company both in the number of entries and in the contests has made everyone in the Coy. feel proud. We had more entries than other Coys. in the Battalion, thanks to C.Q.M.S. Tong for putting the spirit into the men to enter. His efforts were rewarded, by the fine way the men fought, and the honours we carried off. We carried off eight medals out of 15.

The Company is going on leave from 22nd December until 19th January.

We beat "B" Coy. 2-0 and drew 1-1 with the Band and Drums at football.

We are all pleased to see L/C. Dray back with us again after a strenuous time at Aldershot on a P.T. Course.

Things we want to know.

What does O.S. think of "C" "Dankers" now?

Who is the N.C.O. who said that he can walk an hour in twenty minutes?

Does Nassam like the training. Pull back, and rotate. (Same like the dickie birds).

What did "knocks" say when he lost his book. (Notes on I.G.)?

The N.C.O. who sent a certain Private for a left-handed rubber spanner. What did "Ginger" say?
 Dros.

D COMPANY.

At the present moment we are in the midst of our Company Weapon Training Course with the bogey of "standard tests" following us about everywhere, but this ends on the 21st and then we go on leave for Christmas.

We had splendid entries from the Company for the Boxing Tournament. We congratulate Bell on his splendid win in the Novices Light weights.

Hockey.

For the second round of the Army Hockey Cup, played at Bourne-mouth, the Company hired two motor char-a-bancs to go and support the team. A thoroughly enjoyable day was spent and we believe that the support from the touch-line went a long way towards helping Tommy Tutt to notch the winning goal in the last five minutes of the game.

Football.

In the Football line we have been keeping our end up, having played another drawn game with the Band and Drums, and having beaten the "crank-handles" 6-0. The Band and Drums were rather on top of us in the second half of the game, and "Ginger" Day gave our goalkeeper several anxious moments, but failed to beat him. Merry Christmas to all
 D.N.

An Impression of the Annual Dinner.

DAYS ahead I cogitated as to ways and means of getting there, dug up ties, badges, medals from the "Diddy Box" (old soldiers please note) and finally decided to go at all costs, modestly garbed, "avec" one P. and P. Badge. Luckily for me a friend with a two-seater had a spare seat up and down from Town of which I gladly availed myself, and another old comrade lunched me and dumped me at Harrods somewhere near the prescribed time, collecting another en route.

Having measured our vocabulary with a fluent taxi-man and won, and paid, we circumnavigated the stores and finally plunged into the entrance out (as "Johnno" puts it) and found ourselves in an emporium bustling with Teddy Bears, Cuddly Dolls and things. After a slight check we found a glorified gent. in livery who, with a "please remember the poor" expression, gave us our passports.

We entered the dining hall under a battery of eyes, pained blinkingly to be subjected to a volley of ejaculations according to the temperament of the individual, such as "Well, who'd have thought it, bless my soul, cheerio, gor' blimey how are yer." Slaps on the back, crushing hand grips and digs in the ribs convinced us we were right amongst The Buffs once more. Having "cleared for action" in the Cloak Room we carefully surveyed the scene from cover of a group of palms and racked our memories for names and dates and places and eventually sallied forth to "muck in" with the boys. We cleverly deducted that the largest group were in occupation of the bar and therefore being in a kindred mood we advanced on the position. In the meantime we had had ample time to identify the comrades through the lines of communication.

Here was a stately Major who eyed us for a moment and whose stern features suddenly broke into a perfectly schoolboyish smile; another, a grizzly old soldier, rushed forward to claim a hand, in fact Officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s Men and boys (grown up) extended the great welcome to each new comer. We reached the bar with smarting fingers and a healthy thirst to be greeted again by long-lost nicknames and vociferous shouts for tonic. The pre-food "pow wow" was pregnant with reminiscences and old buck such as "I see you're limping better." "Who's shoved your hair back?" "We'd have to cut your rations chum." "Have't yer got no undertaker round your way Nobby," etc., etc.

There were Dusty's, Hookey's, Snowballs, Darkies, Doughies, Gingers all round us grinning their gladdest. Snatches of conversations reached us during rare lulls in the conversation and one might have heard a distinguished Sporting Officer saying "Yes! my average that season was 34.4, this season its 25.8, what's yours." Irrelevant private, "Thank'ee Sir, I'll have a beer." Well we swapped lies, as the Navy has it, until "Roast Beef" played and we fell too just where we listed. It is at table where one can take good stock of faces, and friends, missed in the mix up, hastened to raise their glasses to those on the long tables whom they spotted for the first time.

Great execution was done on an admirably cooked dinner and, where I was, we shifted Bass with that abandon which only a Buff can aspire to and *still get by the Guard*.

Toasts were drunk and sung, inspiring regimental music made us sit bolt upright in our chairs and mark time with our feet. A splash of scarlet cloth on the band stand brought regrets to many that the smart Buff uniform is denied the rank and file.

The sign manual of The Buffs, the facings and the immaculate 'turn out,' for which the Regiment was so famous in the past, is practically washed out through National retrenchment and to the old soldier is a very regrettable reform.

The sense of humour that prevailed throughout the dinner was exceptional. One saw a dignified General naving a very rough passage aloft on the shoulders of two sturdy ex-privates, whose line of march was never really determined, but all three were imbued with the spirit of fun whilst we all sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" as lustily as only Buffs know how. Some O.C.'s dashed down and fell in and marched behind the General followed by Officers of all ranks who escorted him out of the room to the grand old regimental march past. Following dinner one rambled round, salaamed the Colours, chin-chinned senior officers, ragged the Chelsea Pensioners, (by the way one claimed to be the Oldest Old Buff still living), inspected the band and made a strategic effort to get near the bar. Having once got there platoons of whiskeys and beers seem to form up unbidden, but paid for, and one had to make heroic efforts to pacify one's hosts. Oh the leg-pulling (in the singular please Mr. Editor, some of them didn't run to two) here, it was great. It was safe to preface all remarks with either "Do you remember" or "What'll you have." Anyhow, never have I seen the spirit of comradeship so exemplified as it was at The Buffs' Annual Dinner at Harrods. Not the least inspiring incident of the whole show was the enthusiastic rendering of "Auld Lang Syne" by all of us, forming many rings, we romped it round and round; Brigadiers, Colonels, Majors, Corporals and all the company sang lustily until the band got weary and called us to rigid attention for the King.

Finally, I found my party, suffered more hand grips, swore to come next year, paid our adieus to our genial and hardworking organisers, cloaked ourselves and went out into the world full and contented.

N.C.

Battle Honours.

HERE we give the list of the battle honours gained by the Regiment in the Great War together with the battalions engaged in each:—

Colour Honours.

Aisne, 1914 or Armentieres, 1st Battalion; Ypres, 1915-17, 2nd, 7th and 8th Battalions; Loos, 2nd, 6th and 8th Battalion; Somme, 1916-18, 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions; Arras, 1917, 6th and 7th Battalions; Amiens, 6th and 7th Battalions; Hindenburg Line, 1st, 6th, 7th and 10th Battalions; Struma, 2nd Battalion; Bagdad, 5th Battalion; Jerusalem, 10th Battalion.

Army List.

France and Flanders, 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th Battalions; Armentieres, 1914, 1st Battalion; Gravenstafel, 2nd Battalion; St. Julien, 2nd Battalion; Frezenberg, 2nd Battalion; Bellewaarde, 2nd Battalion; Hooge, 1915, 1st Battalion; Albert, 1916-1918, 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions; Bazentin, 7th Battalion; Delville Wood, 8th Battalion; Pozieres, 6th Battalion; Flers Courcellette, 1st Battalion; Morval, 1st Battalion; Thiepval, 7th Battalion; Transloy, 6th Battalion; Ancre Heights, 7th Battalion; Ancre, 1916-18, 6th and 7th; Scarpe, 1917, 6th Battalion; Messines, 1917, 8th Battalion; Pilkem, 8th Battalion; Passchendaele, 7th Battalion; Cambrai, 1917-1918, 1st and 6th Battalions; St. Quentin, 1st and 7th Battalions; Bapaume, 1918, 1st Battalion; Epehy, 1st, 6th, 7th and 10th Battalions; St. Quentin Canal, 6th and 7th Battalions; Selle, 1st, 6th and 7th Battalions; Sambre, 7th Battalion; Macedonia, 1916-1918, 2nd Battalion; Doiran, 1918, 2nd Battalion; Palestine, 1917-1918, 10th Battalion; Gaza, 10th Battalion; Tel Azur, 10th Battalion; Aden, 1915-1916, 4th Battalion; Mesopotamia, 1915-1918, 5th Battalion; Tigris, 1916, 5th Battalion; Kut-el-Amara, 1917, 5th Battalion.

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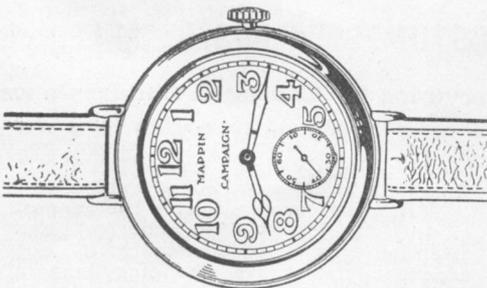
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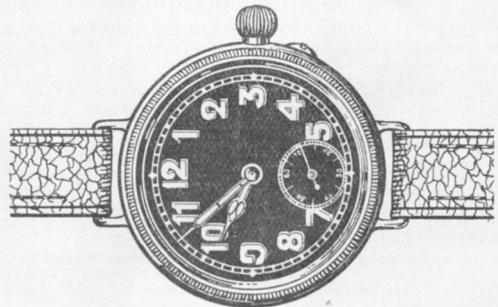
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The Origin of the Badge of the Buffs.

ON the 22nd December, 1917, there appeared in *The Field* an article under the above title in which the writer, an officer of the Buffs, sought to establish the point that regiments in the earlier days of the present standing Army were feudal or quasi-feudal organisations and that their badges must be explained in the light of that characteristic. In doing so he set up a case for the theory that the regiment's badge, The Dragon, represents one of the supporters to the royal arms in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

He first disposed of the popular idea which connects the badge with the City of London dragon, based, naturally enough, on the honoured connection of the regiment with the City. Had the City dragon been granted to a regiment it is morally certain that such a markedly emblematic device would have been adopted instead of the green dragon actually in use by the regiment. Not that mere colour is in itself important, but the City dragon vanquished by St. George and made to support his own and the City Arms, viz: St. George's Cross, is appropriately blazoned in regenerate white with the red cross on its wings; for it is a baptised dragon. ("It has, in fact, become a Christen beast." *Memorials of Old London; Ditchfield*).

In *Cannon's History* the following statement was made:—"About the year 1707, Prince George of Denmark's Regiment was permitted to display a dragon on its colours as a regimental badge as a reward for its gallant conduct on all occasions. The dragon, being one of the supporters to the royal arms in the time of Queen Elizabeth also indicated the origin of the corps in Her Majesty's reign." *Cannon* gives no authority for this statement, but it must be noted that *Cannon's History* was written by the King's command and is itself the authority. Queen Elizabeth's dragon was a gold one, as may be seen on her tomb at Westminster Abbey; but colour was a matter of personal choice—Edward IV. displayed a black dragon, Henry VII. a red one, Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke a green one. The Buffs' dragon has the normal heraldic colouring, i.e., green and pink.

Why was a royal badge granted to the Buffs?

In the reign of James II., the colours of the Holland Regiment were black and displayed the "Sun in Splendour" also a royal badge granted, it is suggested by Milne, as a mark of royal favour in respect of Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, and having allusion to a set piece of fireworks at the King's Coronation which displayed the "Sun in Splendour" and the motto, "Sol occubuit nox nulla secuta est."

Following the feudal conception, regiments were named after their colonels and displayed devices of their colonels. The Holland Regiment was frequently called "Oglethorpe's Regiment," for short; but its formal title, as seen in lists of the period, was "Our" (or His Majesty's) "Holland Regiment of Foot, commanded by Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe;" therefore it was not, properly speaking, Oglethorpe's own regiment, but belonged to the King, and hence it displayed one of the King's badges and not Oglethorpe's. The Earl of Bath's Regiment bore the Earl of Bath's badge.

Regiments, in fact, were feudal or quasi-feudal organisations and bore the name and badge of their owner, and therefore a regiment with a royal badge was owned by the Sovereign personally.

The next badge of the Buffs was the dragon and, when first granted, the regiment's title was "Prince George of Denmark's Regiment." That Prince was the consort of Queen Anne—hence his regiment displayed a royal badge.

It may well be that the dragon badge has a further significance. It was in Queen Elizabeth's reign that the lineal ancestors of the Buffs fought "in the glorious

cause of civil and religious liberty in the Netherlands, to wrest that country from Spanish domination." The badge may therefore have been chosen as typifying the cause of Protestantism and the regimental motto, "Veteri frondescit honore," presumably dates from the time when the dragon first appeared on the colours. The Latin words readily carry an allusion to the new green-coloured badge, reviving memories of the older green-coloured flags of the regiment which had been supplanted by the black flags and the "Sun in Splendour," with its Jacobite significance. This is quite in accordance with the spirit of a time when badges and devices played an important part in the European world.

All companies of a regiment used to carry a colour, and the colonel, the lieutenant-colonel, and major had each his own company and colour, as well as the captains. Owing to tactical changes the colours were gradually reduced to two, the colonel's and lieutenant-colonels, called the first and second colours. The colonel's colour remained as a plain flag of one colour, but in the lieutenant-colonel's flag the St. George's Cross had given way to the Union Flag, the ground colour disappearing.

Some Royal Warrants issued in the middle of the eighteenth century altered this arrangement. The lieutenant-colonel's colour (the Union Flag) became the first or "King's" colour, and the colonel's flag became the second or "regimental" colour and was ordered, except for royal regiments, to be of the same colour as the regimental facings. All regiments became "His Majesty's Regiments," their feudal allegiance being in future to the King, all private badges and colours of colonels being abolished.

The Guards, however, had a special relation to the Sovereign, so no alteration was made in their colours.

The colours of the Buffs are thus described in the warrants: "In the center the Dragon being their ancient badge, and the Rose and Crown in the three corners of their second colour." (The fourth corner was occupied by a small Union Flag, now abolished).

The dragon is not counted by the warrants as a "private badge," but on the contrary, it is seen to be recognised as a royal badge, and this is emphasised by the grant of another royal badge, viz., the Rose and Crown.

This second grant was made to others of the "Six Old Corps." The deduction is that those regiments belonged to the Sovereign personally.

The above notes seem to establish the point that the grant of badges to regiments was governed by the quasi-feudal conception of regimental organisation, and seem to explain the wearing of royal badges of certain corps, and the Royal Warrants of the middle of the eighteenth century give marked indication of a traditional Royal status.

The Pamphlet.

THE contents of the pamphlet embracing the constitution, aims, objects and rules of the Past and Present Association, the Buffs, have been definitely decided upon by the Regimental Committee, and the whole is now under final revision prior to being handed over to the printers: in this work Captain Jeanes, late the Buffs, is very kindly giving the committee the benefit of his journalistic experience.

Still a little time must elapse prior to publication and its distribution into the hands of those who, perhaps, may be growing a little impatient at the delay; but when it is remembered that the Regimental Committee have held no less than twenty-one meetings at each of which the pamphlet has come up for consideration, the amount of research work and labour expended in its preparation becomes evident. The Committee, therefore, asks the kind indulgence of those interested for a little time longer.

The Decimal System of Rations.

(With acknowledgements to Punch).

"With effect from 1st November, 1923, and until further notice, the commuted cash value of the articles of the fixed ration mentioned at (a) and (b) of para. 1 of A.C. 1. 469 of 1921, will be 3.1953 pence a man a day."

Extract from Army Council Instructions.]

THE Deputy-Assistant Actuary (graded Class ZZⁿ) and attached to the Blankshire Regiment to supervise the working of the above order) scratched his head with one of the two Government pens issued to him on part-repayment (2.0351 pence each), and gazed distractedly at the half-dozen sheets of foolscap (free issue) covered (on both sides, according to finance regulations) with calculations in every known form of arithmetic, algebra, geometrics and eurythmics. Then, snatching up his papers, he strode to the Orderly Room.

The C.O., who feared no foe in shining armour or brass hat, always quailed before any financial functionary.

"What is it?" he asked nervously.

"Sir," began the D.A.A., taking a long breath for the delivery of his impressive and carefully prepared explanation, "I regret to have to inform you that, in checking the Second in Command's Imprest Account and the monthly messing book, I find that the total sum indented for in respect of the commuted cash value falls short of the amount authorised, with the result that the expenditure per man per day works out at 3.1952, instead of 3.1953."

"Good gracious!" exclaimed the C.O., "that means that—What does that mean exactly?"

"It means," said the D.A.A. with pardonable indignation, "either that there has been some mathematical miscalculation or that the daily variation in the numbers in mess has been inaccurately estimated."

"It means," put in the Adjutant, who had been doing sums on his blotting-paper, "that every man in the battalion has been short, every day in every way, of approximately .00007 penceworth of food. I am not sure if the last figure is recurring or not."

"It is," said the D.A.A. sternly.

"Recurring!" cried the C.O. "Good gracious! How many times?"

"I think, Sir, you had better send for Major Tomlin," said the Adjutant.

"Yes," said the C.O., pushing aside the relatively unimportant papers concerning battalion training with which he had been occupied, "and the Quartermaster and the Sergeant-Major and the Sergeant-Cook."

A few minutes later the Second in Command appeared, hot and harassed.

"Major Tomlin," said the C.O., "I must ask you, as President of the Messing Committee, for an explanation of the irregularity in last month's messing."

"I suppose," said the Second in Command, "that you allude, Sir, to the dot double oh double seven deficiency in the commuted cash value. I have just come from a rather stormy meeting of the Messing Committee. My office is more or less surrounded by men demanding the minimum ration. The representatives of Other Ranks on the Committee have made a strong protest. I have Sergeant Withers and Private Green outside here."

"Bring them in," said the C.O.

Sergeant Withers was perhaps a little less deferential than is customary, but the C.O. overlooked it in view of the abnormal circumstances.

"It's a scandal," said the Sergeant. "The men have been defrauded in the fifth place of decimals for thirty-one days, and that figures out in man-months to—"

"What do you think about it?" asked the C.O., turning to Private Green.

"Private Green, 'tion! Get your 'ands back!" shouted the Sergeant-Major.

"Well, Sir," said Private Green deliberately, "I don't rightly understand dec'mals meself, but from what I can see of it, that's right what the sergeant says."

"Private Green, stand a-a-at ee!" bawled the Sergeant-Major.

"I cannot pass the messing account as it stands," said the D.A.A. decidedly.

The C.O. had an idea.

"About how much does it amount to in actual commodities?" he asked.

A gruff voice emanated from the Sergeant-Cook in the corner.

"'Bout one kipper per battalion per month."

"I'll stand them that out of my pocket," said the C.O. with alacrity. "Private Green, could you eat a kipper for your tea to-day?"

"I don't mind if I do," said Private Green.

"The mob round my office," put in the Second in Command, "won't be satisfied because Private Green has a relish to his tea."

"Very well," said the C.O., "then I will provide the kipper, and you, Major Tomlin, shall divide it amongst the men of the battalion. The Regimental Actuary will no doubt assist you to ensure that each portion is of equal financial value to several places of decimals. That settles it. Thank you, everybody."

When the rest had left the room, the Second in Command and the D.A.A. remained behind.

"Look here," said the Second in Command, "have you got any tip for working this business out in a simple way?"

"It's perfectly easy," said the D.A.A. "You can keep a graphic daily, or you can work it by the binomial theorem."

The Second in Command, who was a soldier by nature, a caterer and accountant only by force of circumstances, and a mathematician by no stretch of imagination, gave him a withering look.

"I don't understand the binomial theorem," he said, "and I don't know what you mean about *The Daily Graphic*."

"There is another difficulty that I forsee," said the C.O. "The battalion goes to the Rhine next month. To how many places of decimals shall we have to work in German currency?"

SITUATION VACANT.

MAJOR Nestor Richards (late The Buffs), The Law Society's Hall, Chancery Lane, London, E.C. 2, requires a valet, age 30 to 40, Single, ex-service man, willing to travel. Pte. Smith (Capt. Cook's old servant) preferred. Applications should be sent in by 15th January, 1924.

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Orders for binding *The Dragon* can be now placed with the Editor in accordance with one or other of the following alternatives—

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NOTE.—We still have a few Bound Volumes of the 1922 Dragons for disposal.

ROUND & ABOUT

BY
THE TRAMP



THE NEW YEAR. As usual, our optimism comes to the top in spite of all rebuffs and disappointment as 1923 draws to an end. When all the other signs and portents fail, we pin our faith to the off-chance that the jobs we will do will be successful; that the horses we will back will not delay overmuch, and that luck, that master of us all, will be kinder than before. So here's wishing all readers of *The Dragon* the fulfilment of every good promise in the twelve months to come.

THE ELECTIONS. The Elections are over and the ordinary man, at whom for three weeks candidates have been talking hoarsely, reverts once again to his usual position of happy nonentity. While the campaign lasted he was sought after, courted and sometimes moistened by the exponents of this or that gospel in a way that makes him think, after all, that he 'cuts some ice.'

THE AUTOCRATS. The attitude of certain newspapers before Polling-day did not go very far to assisting their readers to form definite opinions. There is a notorious example of 'blow hot, blow cold.' It is just conceivable that people nowadays go to the Poll with some sort of opinion of their own, undictated by any news-sheet. Without being cynical, one is forced to the conclusion that that proportion is relatively small.

A SIGN OF GRACE. A smile passed over Fleet Street the other day when early in the election, a certain newspaper magnate sent forth the following *ukase* to his Editorial Staff:—"Be fair to all sides *until further notice*." (The italics are mine).

"A JOURNEY IN IRELAND." Those who served in Ireland during the regrettable period will find much to interest them in the above book, a slim green volume, by the late Wilfred Ewart, the ex-Guards officer, who burst into fame with his novel "The Way of Revelation," one of the finest pieces of fiction dealing with the war years. Ewart unfortunately lost his life about a year ago in Mexico, through being struck by a stray bullet fired by an overheated reveller in the street below his hotel. "A Journey in Ireland" has many merits. Summed up briefly it is a well written, impartial and intensely human presentation of both sides of an extremely thorny question. The author often went on foot through the country during his tour and conversed with all manner of people. He occasionally was in difficulties, but emerged unscathed. I recommend it as a book which helps one a great deal to envisage if not to understand, the tragedy of those ghastly years.

THE CRUSADERS. A storm has arisen since the Dean of Westminster permitted the use of the Abbey for a Service inaugurating a new semi-secret society. The Dean has been criticised also somewhat unfairly for having permitted the Society to choose the "Unknown Warrior" as their figurative patron. To imply that it is in the Dean's power to

allot the patronage of the Unknown Warrior is ludicrous and, to say the least of it, is extremely bad taste. It would seem that the Crusaders were ill-advised to hold a public service in the Abbey when, as they have since averred, they are opposed to publicity of any sort. There is very little doubt that the Society and its objects are not only above suspicion, but in many respects highly laudable. Any movement that attempts to perpetuate the brotherhood between all manner and classes of Englishmen which the common dangers and hardships of the trenches fostered, can only be criticised by those "Wild men" whose cause would suffer as a result.

THE 'VARSITY RUGBY MATCH. This annual encounter does not attract the colossal crowds of the great free spectacle, the Boat race, but even so, some thirty-thousand people saw a very close and clever game at Twickenham on December 10th. For many years the Dark Blues have had an ardent supporter in the person of an Oxford Hansom Cabby who never fails to be present to encourage (with considerable vocal effort) what he properly considers 'his' Varsity! In a dull moment towards the end of this last match at Twickenham, he was heard to say in clear and appealing tones "Now then, Oxford, just one more please," to the delight of a vast concourse for whom the game was virtually over.

An Eager Lover.

AT last—at last the fateful year,
That I've awaited painfully.
When I proposed last year, you know,
She answered me disdainfully.
"You seek my hand, a youth like you,
I think you're far too young to wed.
Next year when you are twenty-four—
Well then—perhaps—who knows?" she said
At last, the fateful hour has struck,
Midnight is here—'tis '24!
Till morning breaks and she awakes
I'll await my fate at her street door!

H.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ARRANGE

YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY.

The Depot Cricket Week will take place from July 19th, the date of the Past and Present Match, to July 24th. There will be accommodation in Barracks for all, any amount to amuse you: so make your arrangements now.

SEE TO IT NOW.

Pick of the Basket.

Dear Sir, SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DINNER.

At the Cenotaph on the 17th it occurred to me that if the place of assembly could be arranged for at the Horse Guards Parade, it would be much better than meeting at Trafalgar Square. There is more space on the parade, and very little traffic, either pedestrian or vehicular, and entering into Whitehall would be much easier than from Trafalgar Square, where so many lines of traffic converge. The place is easy to find—straight through the Archway under the clock tower, where the Horse Guards are on sentry, and the parade opens out to right and left.

Of course it is possible that this has already been thought of and turned down for some reason or other. Members of the Salonika Army recently assembled on the parade preparatory to placing a wreath at the Cenotaph—so here at least is a precedent.

On the matter of days for the ceremony at the Cenotaph and the dinner, there seems to be wide difference of opinion.

It seems that unless a cheap special train is arranged for, very few men of Kent will come to London, and as the Railway Company seem averse to arranging a "Special" during the week-end, it practically rules Saturday out for them. (Besides some of the wives of the men of Kent like to fix in a day's shopping in London, and the shops close very early on Saturdays).

On the other hand Saturday suits most of the Buffs in London.

I noticed that we had Buffs from as far North as Manchester, and as far South as Southampton—not to speak of those from the gale-swept heights of Portland, but in these days of high pay one would think that a few more of the young soldiers from the Depot would show their pride of Regiment and attend the "Past and Present" Dinner, and perhaps spare a thoughtful moment for that National reminder, the Cenotaph.

While writing on the question of gatherings of Buffs, may I point out that many of us have to arrange our holidays quite early in the year. Therefore it would be a great help to those who have to look so far ahead if the actual dates of the Depot week could be fixed early and notified in the January or February *Dragon*.

Lyndhurst, Yours very truly,
21 Pulborough Road, E. SMITH.
London, S.W.18.

Note:—The Regimental Committee is arranging that this information shall be given early in the New Year.

Sir, ANNUAL DINNER.

I attended the Past and Present Dinner of The Buffs and expected to see many old 2nd Battalion men who had left us when we were abroad, and I was very greatly surprised when I found that very few rankers indeed and no old 2nd Battalion men were present at all. No doubt a lot is due to unemployment and not being able to afford the Railway fare and the cost of putting up somewhere for the night. My firm opinion is, that if the dinner had been held in a central place like Canterbury, many more would have attended, as most ex Buffs are round about Kent. The Railway fare would be less, also the Depot could put people up for the night, like they do at Canterbury Week and also provide breakfast for a small charge. Also might I suggest that the dinner be of a more informal character than evening dress which gives rather a starchy effect to the proceedings. I feel sure that more of the re-union spirit would prevail if evening dress was not quite such a prominent feature.

Perhaps if you could spare the space for this letter in your suggestions column, other views may be forthcoming on the subject.

H.Q. Wing, I am, yours truly,
2nd Bn. The Buffs, Portland. O. STOCKEN.
P.S.—Many thanks for souvenir menu received.

A CORRECTION.

Dear Sir,

In the Christmas number of *The Dragon* just received, I have read with great interest R.Q.M.S. Ing's contribution regarding the Past and Present Association The Buffs, and especially that part which deals with the efforts to secure 'Suvla Bay' as a Battle Honour for the Regiment. As an original member of the Kent Composite Battalion and for a considerable period its Adjutant, I should like to point out that the Composite Battalion was made up not as stated by R.Q.M.S. Ings, namely:—

"A" Company, 4th Battalion, The Buffs.

"B" Company, 4th Battalion, The Buffs.

"C" Company, 4th Battalion, The Royal West Kent Regiment.

"D" Company, 4th Battalion, The Royal West Kent Regiment.

but as under:—

"A" Company, 2/4th Battalion, The Buffs.

"B" Company, 2/5th Battalion, The Buffs.

"C" Company, 2/4th Battalion, The Royal West Kent Regiment.

"D" Company, 2/5th Battalion, The Royal West Kent Regiment.

I consider that this should be made clear in justice to the Battalions concerned.

I sincerely trust that the Committee will be successful in securing the desired Battle Honour, but I am afraid that the question of the Battalion Headquarters may prove a stumbling-block, as, unless my memory is at fault, its original personnel was drawn entirely from The Royal West Kent Regiment with the exception of the Battalion Transport Officer (2/4th Battalion, The Buffs), who did not proceed to 'Suvla Bay' with the Battalion, as no transport was taken!

Apologising for troubling you at such length,
"Neilston," Yours faithfully,
West Byfleet, W. T. LARKS LAMARQUE,
Surrey. Captain, late 5th Buffs.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY.

The Editor.

Sir,

It may be of interest to some of your readers to hear that the name of Captain C. K. Greene should have been given in the list of those who lost their lives; but as it did not appear in any official list, I hope I may be pardoned for the omission.

On 14th December, 1914, Captain Greene was appointed Governor (2nd Class) of Military Detention Barracks and posted to Cork where he died on the 25th March, 1916. He joined the Buffs, 6th February, 1884.

His name will appear in the Memorial Book and also on the slip of corrections and additions to the History which I hope to issue shortly.

Audit House, I am, Sir,
Victoria Embankment, Yours faithfully,
E.C. 4. F. W. TOMLINSON, Major,
Hon. Sec. The Buffs History.

How to get "The Dragon."

FOR those wishing to receive the paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—

1 year 8/-, 6 months 4/-, 3 months 2/-.

Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

“Beneath Bell Harry.”



THE Depot is filling up with recruits once more, and is due to enlist men up to the full establishment of 5 standard squads. But recruits are not coming in very freely. Perhaps it is that the lads find it hard to tear themselves from their homes at Christmas time. It seems unusual at any rate, as this time of year is considered the most prolific.

We had a week's frost at the beginning of December, just enough to stop the hunting and not enough to make the ice hold.

Our padre was seen cleaning the vaseline off his skates preparatory to giving a display of continental figure skating on the old park pond, but that produced the thaw. The East Kent Hunt has been allowed back again into most of the restricted area, but they don't have much luck there. The Secretary complains that the Shorncliffe Drag is out to "cut their throats." This is of course far from the case—what soldier would intentionally obstruct fox hunting! It is true that the garrisons of Dover, Shorncliffe and Canterbury forsake the East Kent Hunt for the Drag, and will continue to do so as long as they can be sure of getting a good ride with the latter. But Regiments continue to subscribe which is surely a sign of goodwill.

The Pantomime is well under way now and should be quite a good show. It is a pity that there isn't a larger hall in barracks as the seating accommodation in the Prince of Wales' Institute is very limited. If there is a large demand for seats from the civilians in Canterbury—which I understand is probable—we shall have to run the show for a third night. The performers have struck at the suggestion of a matinee—and no wonder at it—the house gets full of children who are too young to do anything but cry and who are only there because their mothers can't leave them at home.

We had quite an exciting time with the general election, but the result leaves us rather cold. The wireless set was in demand on the night of the sixth and the officers' mess was crowded with an expectant audience. But the results came through at long intervals and it was difficult to form any estimate even at 1 a.m.

We are glad to see Mr. Willows wearing a B.B. tie, and are sorry he will not be in England next summer to play for them. We note that the B.B. Dinner comes off on the night before he sails for Gibraltar. We trust he will have a calm passage through the Bay.

Mr. Bernard Davies has arrived to take over Major Howard Smith's post as Adjutant of the 4th Battalion. He has decided that he cannot live in the mess owing to the amount of night work he has to do and he is therefore taking rooms over a bunshop. We hope he may not find it necessary to continue this arrangement as we are always glad to welcome another bachelor at the Depot.

We hear Captain Vertue is on leave in England and that he may be seen gazing out on to the lights of London through the window of his club. We hope this life of ease will not increase his figure.

Inter-Squad Shield.

The inter-squad shield for November and December has been won by Sgt. Coaster's Squad very closely followed by Sgt. Smith's Squad.

The events were:—Boxing: 1, Sgt. Coaster; 2, Sgt. Smith: Athletics: 1, Sgt. Smith; 2, Sgt. Coaster. Total 3 points each, but as Sgt. Coaster's Squad disposed of Sgt. Smith's Squad in the first round of the football and has also reached the final the shield must go to them.

The final of the football should be interesting, Lt./Sgt. Beasley's Squad forming the opposition.

FOOTBALL.

Since the issue of the last *Dragon* we have played four matches, winning one, losing one and drawing two.

Friendly v. St. Edmund's.

Draw. Two goals each. A very good game, in which the lads from the college put up a plucky game and showed splendid combination.

Cinque Ports League.

v. Northamptonshire Regiment on our ground. Depot won 6-3, after leading 4-0 half-time, a very wet day and a very muddy ground. We won on the toss and kicked with the tide.

It was a very good game and gives us a welcome two points.

v. Worcestershire Regiment at Dover.

Result:—draw, two goals each, a welcome point being added to our total, and the R.S.M. with his flock of supporters returned to Canterbury very satisfied indeed as we lost the corresponding match last year.

A good clean match played in the best of spirits with hardly a foul throughout the game.

Friendly v. Wye College.

At Wye.

Lost 3-0 after a jolly good game in which there was plenty of full-blooded shoulder charging and no whistle. It was as near as possible a pre-war game.

Recruits v. R.A.M.C.

Won by us 3-1, the recruits showing a good knowledge of the game and some of them will come in handy bye and bye.

HOCKEY.

Wednesday, November 21st v. Small Arms School, Hythe, at Hythe. Lost 1-5.

Monday, November 26th: v. 2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regt. at Dover. Lost 4-8.

A very good game against a strong side. Several of our regular players were away.

Saturday, December 1st: v. Royal Irish Fusiliers at Canterbury. Lost 3-6.

This was a very good match. The bad state of the ground proved a great handicap to both teams. Several chances were missed by the Depot forwards in the circle.

Wednesday, December 12th: v. Cavalry Depot at Canterbury. Lost 1-3.

A very hard and keenly contested game.

Lost.

Lakhrie's tooth with a pound's worth of gold round it. All ranks are invited to search the Cavalry Depot Hockey Ground for the missing molar, as its owner is due to take part in the "Great Whistling Contest" to be held in the Paladium shortly.

Any information concerning above should be reported without delay to the Depot C.I.D.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Though written in December, these Notes are for the January issue of *The Dragon*, so we take the opportunity of wishing one and all a downright happy and prosperous 1924; and trust that all readers spent a real rollicking Christmas, although that event is not yet upon us as this goes to press. We have not a great deal of news to give you, and our Epitome this month will deal mainly with indoor functions—our happy little Whist Drives and Dances—the enjoyment of which appears to increase with the holding of each one.

Billiards.

We are now getting along with the Major George Porter Billiard Championship, and several of the heats have been played off. Next month we shall be in a position to give you an idea as to who is to have his name engraved on the excellent Cup that is being played for. Several of the Old Brigade are taking part, (Messrs. Follett, Drummy Dixon, Sid Sutton, Sheeran, Petts, etc.), and they are striving their utmost to shew some of us Young 'Uns how the game should be played. They all play a good game and we shall indeed have to look to our laurels.

Dances.

Our monthly Dance (not Fancy Dress this time) took place in the Gymnasium. There was quite a happy little gathering, and everything went off swimmingly. The Officers always very kindly give us a look up, and appear to enjoy the Gaff just as much as ourselves. We are jolly glad to see them there too.

R.S.M. and Mrs. Dare collared the Spot Waltz Prize, whilst Mrs. Collins (wife of dear old "Lottie") and Mr. Smith were fortunate enough to hold the Lucky Numbers.

The next Dance is being held on New Year's Eve, and an open invitation is being given to all ranks. We are wondering if our generous C.O. will find it in his heart to give us all a holiday on New Year's Day to get over it. There are heaps of us betting that he will. Just you wait and see!

Beneath Bell Harry—Continued. Whist Drives.

The weekly Whist Drives held every Tuesday are becoming so pronounced in favour that we are offering three prizes,—that is:—three for Ladies and three for Gentlemen. Jolly fine prizes they are too, cunningly yet suitably selected by C.S.M. Love, the Mess President. The Table below will shew who have been the lucky recipients of the same.

Ladies 1st. Miss Prebble. Tea Pot, Sugar Basin and Cream Jug.
Ladies 2nd. Mrs. Keegan. Bottle of Port (with Cob-webs).
Gents. 1st. Drummy Dixon. Bottle of Whisky. (It's all gone).
Gents. 2nd. Sid Sutton. Bottle of Winox.
Booby. Mrs. Beasley. Box of Bon-bons. (Lucky little Joan).
Booby. Mr. Foreman. Box of Figs. (No "leaves" enclosed).
Ladies 1st. Miss Evans. Port and Winox.
Ladies 2nd. Mrs. Ings. Burgundy.
Ladies 3rd. Mrs. Tucker. Sherry.
Gents. 1st. Sgt. Emery. Whisky. (Good old George).
Gents. 2nd. R.Q.M.S. Ings. Port. (that's the stuff, George).
Gents. 3rd. C/S. Edwards. GINGER WINE. (O, George how could you). (Crockery's more in his line).
Booby. Mrs. Partridge. Preserved Fruit.
Booby. Mr. Foreman. Box of giant Cigarettes.

Shooting.

The Spoon Shoot resulted in Sergeant MacWalter collaring the Silver chap, and Sgt. Georgie Coaster the Wooden fellow. The Snooker Tournament lately in progress has been concluded, and Staff-Sergt. Smith of the Royal Engineers (the "old" Smudge) came out top. He played well all through, and managed to beat Beasley who was the runner up. Wallie, however, had a certain amount of satisfaction as he managed to pull off the Crib Tournament. Another Snooker tournament has been started on account of the former one proving such a success, and many of the Old 'Uns are having a cut in it. In conjunction with this, we are running a Macaroon affair in which the Member who scores most points (1 point for 1 game, and 3 games played) will be declared the winner. But this is only a sideline, and in no way detracts from the interest being shewn in the Snooker games.

Sergeant Warner of the 2nd Battalion is with us for a temporary spell of duty, pending the arrival from the 1st Battalion of a Sergeant to replace Drummy Clayton, who, we are glad to learn, has safely reached Gibraltar, and is "blowing his horn" out there now. Dear old Jock, the "Old Crab" wishes you the very best of everything, and will remember at Christmas the happy one he spent with you last year, especially in "Bye-Bye" with our "Ammunitions" on. "A sweet old.....to bring home for a Christmas Dinner." We shall never forget that expression.

Once more let us wish in ending up our Notes that everyone may have the best of luck and good fortune during the coming year both in the Service and out of it.

W.M.S.

PRIVATE'S DANCE.

The Privates of the Depot held their second dance in the Gymnasium on November 30th, there being about 200 people present. Pte. Woods officiated as M.C., whilst Private Banks, the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, jazzed around testing the dancing proclivities of the fair sex, but unfortunately got into hot water, as during one part of the evening one of his fancy girls was left derelict. (Excuse nautical terms). The Band under Pte. Wise provided us with music, and did their job very well. During the evening there was a very keen competition between two or three of the gentlemen present as to who had the most dances with a young lady who had travelled all the way from town to be present. Anyway we know who won, he usually does, its the worst of these "eyes jazz."

Owing to a bad cold the R.S.M. was unable to see the dance right off as he usually does.

During the interval Mrs. Cook very kindly presented the prizes to the winners, Mr. Wall and Miss Lester, winners of the "Spot Dance" and Trooper Birch of the Cavtly Depot who won the lucky number prize. C.S.M. Love then called for three cheers for Mrs. Cook, and she got them too, but we have not had time to examine the roof yet.

Our esteemed Commanding Officer was away and therefore unable to be present, as was also Mrs. Lee, but still better luck next time. Pte. Mills was also unable to be present as he was away in town purchasing powders as he is dabbling in the "Elixir of life."

In conclusion, we must thank the Commanding Officer for granting us such a privilege and also C.S.M. Love and his band of willing helpers without whom we could not carry on.

Ptes. Whist Drive.

"CYCLOPS."

The Privates held their first invitation whist drive on Monday, 10th and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Eighteen hands of whist were played and then came an interval of thirty minutes, and during the interval excellent turns were given by the following:—L/Sgt. Beasley, Song, "Broadcasting," Pte. Woods, song, "I am the most miserably man on earth," Miss Collins, song, selected, and Pte. (Rec.) Cook, song, "Loch Lomond."

After the interval an impromptu dance was given, the music being supplied by the Depot Jazz Band consisting of Pte. Sandy, Piano; Pte. Richards, Clarinet; and Pte. Philpott, violin, who very kindly volunteered their services.

It is hoped to make these Monday evenings permanent.

The whist prize-winners were:—Ladies 1st, case of spoons, Miss Dance; Ladies 2nd, Box of lace handkerchiefs, Mrs. Leury; Ladies Booby, box of chocolates, Miss Moys; Gents 1st, Pte. Shelton, Watch; Gents 2nd, Fountain Pen, Pte. Grant; Gents Booby, Bar of soap, Pte. Hogau.

Trooping the Colours.

BY JACKY JACKY, LATE 2ND BATTALION.

BUFFS and 80th? I trow there are a good many of the old Battalion who can call back this command, being varied by Daddy Amial of the latter Regiment at Pietermaritzburg in the latter part of the seventies! Just picture the three Buffs at the saluting base Micky, Cockie and Neddie with a concourse of the elite of the city in their rear whilst we were at the long shoulder—keep your Butt back—with an eye upon the Canteen for the simple reason that it was a flaming hot day and we (or the majority) were longing for a Pontac Shandy to appease our thirst. Those were happy days and we gloried in saluting and parading our colours. We adored those colours and fought for them. I say we? But *where are we?* Have we forgotten these Colours and the old Battalion?

OUR OLD COMRADES.

Now that we are time-X and have a free leg we should not forget old associations and associates, but rather Troop our Colours in another fashion by getting in touch with our old Comrades again through the medium of the Regimental Journal and Associations. I am glad to see a move is being made by some of our old Battalion. It was good to read ex-Pte. Allison's paragraph in the November issue and funny to say that only a few minutes before I received *The Dragon* I was enquiring about his old master, Major Cosmo Gordon, whom, a day after my landing from Australia a few years ago—I met at Plymouth and had three quarters-of-an-hour chat. He was then Staff Officer for Musketry for the South Western District. We talked over old times and incidents, one in particular. Tim Kelly, a private (latterly Pioneer) went out into the City one night and got into conflict with two Boers from the Diamond Fields. These men insulted Kelly whereupon he landed each of them a stunner between the eyes which caused them to fall heavily upon one another in a heap into the Bar of the Hotel at which they were residing. They came not or ditto-repeats, but Tim on landing home, gave your humble servant an hour's pulling at his left thumb until eventually it slipped into its place. The following morn, Tim went to Target Practice and whilst firing his movements were carefully watched by Major (then Lieut.) Gordon. Tim's Martini *could* kick, therefore, that thumb, at each shot, got a jar and so did Major Gordon's features, also Tim's, but, not a word was breathed till Tim arose, when the Major sympathized with his man, for he had heard the tale.

Of the old Battalions' Theatrical Party, I have met three, Ex.-S. M. Harris, Mrs. Harris and Ex.-Sergt. Tommy Carden. We should like to hear of other survivors of the Troop especially of our leading lady, Miss Bates, of Cumbazine fame. I, of my old batman, Punch Crompton and Pte. Williams of "E" Company who watched over me whilst at death's door. The latter our scene painter. Now "A" "D" "E" and "H" Companies of the "70's" and "80's" let us hear of you now, also see you next July at Canterbury if you have a breath in your body. The attendance of the 2nd Battalion was very meagre last Cricket Week, so much so that I should have felt an absolute stranger but for the cracking of Baker, of E Company, formerly of the Military Police. You all know him.

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Boxing Champions of England.

No 5. Tom Johnson, 1785—1790.

AFTER Jack Slack's defeat by Stevens, the Hailer, the English Championship for the next 25 years was held alternately by a number of rather mediocre pugilists including Bill Stevens, 1760; George Meggs, 1761; Bill Darts, 1764; Tom Lyons, 1769; Harry Sellers, 1777; Harris 1780 and it was not until 1785 that a really first rate character appeared in the shape of Tom Johnson.

Johnson, whose real name is said to have been Jackling, was a Yorkshireman, but came to London at an early age and became a corn porter on a Thameside wharf. He was very short for his weight, standing a little under five feet nine inches and weighing 14 stone, but was remarkably strong, and one of his tricks was to take up a large sack of corn in one hand and swing it round his head. Johnson's first fight was in 1783 with a man named Jarvis who had a considerable local reputation, but he was so punished by Tom that he could hardly walk from the field after the contest. After this, Johnson began an all conquering career in London and fought and beat all who were put against him until at last it was decided to look further afield for a worthy opponent. Bill Warr of Bristol was selected to fight Tom for £200, but after a dull contest in which Warr constantly fell without a blow, he was well beaten.

Johnson was now firmly established as Champion and it was some months before a suitable antagonist could be found for him until at last a big Irishman called Ryan with a considerable reputation was produced. The contest was very desperate and the Champion did not get the best of matters. After twenty minutes fighting, Ryan gave Johnson a terrific blow on the temple that so stunned him that he dropped his hands and the Irishman immediately dashed in to finish him, when one of Tom's seconds ran in to save his man and caught Ryan in his arms. Cries of Foul and a general free fight now took place and when the fight finally took place, Ryan was so exhausted that he fell an easy victim to the Champion.

We come now to the most famous fight in Tom Johnson's career and one in which he covered himself with glory. He was challenged by one Isaac Perrins of Birmingham, one of the strongest men in the kingdom, who had lifted into a waggon upwards of eight hundred weight of iron without difficulty.

Perrins was six feet two inches in height and weighed 17 stone—nearly six inches taller and three stone heavier than Tom Johnson. The contest took place at Banbury in Oxfordshire, upon a turf stage 24 feet square, railed in and raised about five feet from the ground. On stripping, it looked like a fight between Hercules and a small boy. To open the fight, Perrins put in a tremendous blow at Tom, which if it had landed would have killed him, but Tom was too quick and returned with a blow of no trifling nature for it knocked the 17 stone man on his back. For the next few rounds, however, Johnson had a bad time, being floored and thrown without ceremony, until he began to resort to "shifting" *i.e.*, falling without a blow, to save himself from being beat. This so angered Perrins that he exclaimed: "Why, what have you brought me here; this is not the valiant Johnson, the Champion of England; you have imposed upon me with a mere boy!"

Johnson rallied at once after this taunt and immediately closed one of the big man's eyes and slit his nose from top to bottom. Perrins was game to the core, however, and went after his man, endeavouring to finish the battle by one desperate hit, but his strength was failing fast and his face had scarcely the traces left of a human being. Still his

courage never forsook him and had not his friends interfered and prevented Isaac from fighting any longer it was the general opinion that Perrins would have continued until he died. After 62 rounds, lasting in all an hour and a quarter, Perrins was literally forced from the ring and Johnson proclaimed the winner.

Tom Johnson at last met his Waterloo at the hands of Big Ben Brain at Wrotham in Kent in 1790. The battle was a pure slugging match to start with, no advantage being gained on either side until Tom broke the middle finger of one of his hands. Johnson seemed to realise now that the Championship was slipping from his grasp as he became wild and fouled his antagonist several times by catching him by the hair. Finally Brain decided the battle in his favour by putting in a tremendous hit on Johnson's ribs and by another, cutting his lip nearly in halves.

Thus did the famous Champion lose his title.

Johnson as so many pugilists did in these days, turned publican and died in Ireland in 1797.

D.S.L.

Armistice Day at Alexandria.

Major A. R. Langdale Kelham, O.B.E., D.C.M., writes as follows from Sidi Gaber, Egypt:—

"The enclosed photo was taken by Aziz and Doreas at the Armistice Day Service, 1923, at Alexandria.



Facing the Cross of Sacrifice from Left to Right are Colonel Commandant W. G. Braithwaite, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding Alexandria Brigade; Major Curtis, D.S.O., M.C.; Brigade-Major Wm. Kelham, M.B.E., District Commissioner Girl Guides and Miss Agnes Carver, 1st Alexandria Girl Guides. Colonel Braithwaite has frequently remarked to me that The Buffs were the smartest and most reliable battalion when in his Brigade "somewhere in France."

I am retiring in April and want to settle down in England and would like an old Buff as servant."

Thanks very much.

The following have very kindly renewed their subscriptions to *The Dragon* at the higher rate of 15/- per annum:—

Brig.-Gen. A. J. Whitacre Allen, Col. Sir C. B. Vyvyan, A. S. Barham, Lt.-Cols. C. G. W. Lowdell, L. C. R. Messel, Majors G. A. Porter, F. W. Darwall, E. B. Burns, E. Clarke, Captains W. C. Lamarque, C. Vallange, Greig, N. Linwood, A. H. Reed, Messrs. C. W. Worters, C. P. Kingsland, W. N. Chapman, Tomlinson, Cecil Castle, T. H. Buttanshaw, A. H. Goodall, R. M. Webster, James Spear.

The Buffs and the Calcutta Rugby Cup.

BY MAJOR GENERAL SIR ARTHUR LYNDEN-BELL, K.C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

I RECEIVED a veritable bombshell this morning in the shape of a letter from the Editor informing me that he is publishing an article in the January number of *The Dragon* from a Gibraltar newspaper on the origin of the Calcutta Rugby cup and asking me to write something for *The Dragon* on the connection of The Buffs with that trophy.

I do not know exactly what the Editor wants, the time he has given me is very short and I have no books of reference on the subject by me but still I feel that the orders of the Editor must be obeyed.

I have no doubt that the Gibraltar paper referred to above will deal adequately with the early history of the Calcutta Rugby Cup and will trace the stages by which the first cup came to be the trophy for which the English and Scottish teams struggle annually, either at Twickenham or Inverleith. I will therefore jump straight to the year 1887 when, as far as I know, The Buffs began "to sit up and take notice" as regards the Calcutta Rugby Cup.

In that year the 1st Battalion moved from the Straits Settlements to Ranikhet. We had at that time a number of enthusiastic Rugby players among the Officers—among whom none were keener than Colonel Daughlish though he hailed from Harrow and professed to despise Rugby, and Eales, who though known as "The Little Man," was one of the stoutest hearted fellows I have ever come across. Among the men, however, Rugby football was practically unknown. I remember very well a discussion taking place one night at Mess about Rugby Football, and some one said "Why not have a try for the Calcutta Rugby Cup?" It was agreed that we should do so, but it was recognised at the same time that we had a big job in front of us.

The first thing to do was to get the Rugby spirit into the Battalion. We had to begin right from the beginning and I can see, as I write, our first struggles on the brick-like surface of the parade ground at Ranikhet as we tried to show the men how to form a scrummage, the functions of the half, three-quarters and full-backs and how to collar properly. It was a slow business chiefly owing to the fact that the casualty list was very heavy—which was hardly surprising having in view the super-keenness of the players and the hardness of the ground. We made satisfactory progress however, and to our joy in July, 1887 or thereabouts managed to defeat a good team from Almora.

Unfortunately our joy was only short-lived for shortly after we were defeated by Colonel (then Capt.) C. P. Lloyd's team of "Gaffers." It must be admitted that the methods of this team were somewhat unorthodox. They arrived on the ground in a variety of costumes and armed with a variety of implements. Our crack three-quarter when fairly in his stride was knocked down by a blow from an umbrella, one of the half-backs when making a pass had one of his feet seized by one of the opposing side who proceeded to try and black his boots whilst a bustling forward who secured a try was promptly marched off the ground by a file of the guard with fixed bayonets!! The Regimental team excused itself for its defeat by the abnormal conditions under which the match was played.

In the autumn of 1887 and 1888 the Battalion went down from Ranikhet to Bareilly and Lucknow for manoeuvres where we were thoroughly tested as regards our Rugby football by various teams we met. The results were encouraging and when we defeated a team at Lucknow containing eight International players we began to think that we might be advancing towards our great objective—the Calcutta Rugby Cup.

In 1889 we certainly advanced towards Calcutta for we were ordered to Dum Dum—to the satisfaction

I think, of the Rugby players, for the move brought us to close quarters with the Calcutta Football Club, but to the general disgust of the Battalion—I admit that Dum Dum has few attractions. It lies below sea-level, for ten months of the year it is very hot, and it is the breeding ground of every form of microbe and reptile. But to the Rugby enthusiast it had its compensations. During the rainy season (roughly August and September) the ground becomes quite soft and in spite of 70 odd degrees of heat men's thoughts fly to Rugby football. And it was at Dum Dum that Rugby football, from being a game played by 150 or so men, was taken up practically by the whole Battalion. We had two rattling games with the Calcutta Football Club who were by now permanent holders of the Calcutta Rugby Cup in view of their having won it three times in succession. (This Cup was I believe the successor to the one now played for by England and Scotland). The result of our games with the Calcutta Football Club was that we drew one and won the other. Not being overburdened with modesty we promptly claimed the Calcutta Rugby Cup which the Calcutta Football Club declined to part with. Mr. Justice Macpherson, however who was in his day an eminent Rugby player, generously gave the present Calcutta Rugby Cup as a challenge trophy for future contests. All our energies were now directed towards securing this trophy.

Our games against Calcutta had taught us much, but perhaps the chief lesson we learnt was one which applies with equal force to the Rugby game of to-day, namely, that the foundation of success is to play an absolutely sound forward game and to be quite certain that you are not beaten in the scrummage. No back division can develop its game if its forwards are being overrun.

Training, too, is of a great importance, but here I would like to sound a note of warning to those who wish to play football in climates like Calcutta. In 1891 we played Calcutta for the Rugby Cup and though I think we should have won we were beaten. I attribute that entirely to the fact that I think we were overtrained. Training for football in Calcutta is different from training in the British Isles. The climate in Calcutta takes a great deal out of a man and as an example I may say that I have distinct recollections of kicking off with beads of perspiration dripping off my forehead on to the ball as I stooped down to place it in position. It follows therefore that training has to be carried out with great care. It is far better to have your team rather above itself than below par on the day of a match.

What destroyed us in 1891 was that we went in for long distance runs as a method of training. We found from experience that this was worse than useless—What you must do is to train men to run in sharp bursts up to 100 yards. Above all we found that for playing in a climate like Calcutta it is a great mistake to interfere with men's natural habits. Let the men eat and drink what they usually do and let them take their ordinary exercise. As regards smoking we all naturally cut it down a little but the only law we had was "no smoking on the day of a match" till "no-side" sounded. I am afraid I have defined a good deal on the subject of training but perhaps the results of our experience may be useful to other Buffs who play football in tropical climates.

In 1892 we were very careful to profit by our experience of the previous year and we were able to put an excellent and properly trained team into the field with the result that we won the Calcutta cup. It was a very well balanced team too. We had a most excellent lot of forwards among whom I can remember Lts. Tarte, Arms, Beer, Tennant, Parker, Manning, Saunders and

Lacey. There were two very nippy half-backs—Moth and Shoesnutts (I think). Among the three-quarters were Lt. Annesley, Jubb and Else. Jubb was one of the hardest men to stop imaginable. A great powerful fellow weighing about 14 stone, very fast with a "hand off" which anyone meeting it is not likely to forget.

In December, 1892 the Battalion left Calcutta for Jullundur—with the Rugby Cup. In 1893 it was determined to go to Calcutta to defend the Cup. We found, however, that training was a very difficult matter. Grass was practically non-existent in the hot weather and falling on the hard ground besides other inconveniences resulted in a most tiresome species of eruption known as a Punjab sore. Colonel Harley then in command of the Battalion and a most keen sportsman very kindly suggested that the team should go down to Calcutta for practice three weeks before the tournament. This we did but unfortunately we met with a series of catastrophes in the shape of illness. It is a well-known fact of which we were then unaware that men coming from the climate of the Punjab to one like Calcutta are very liable to attacks of fever. Hardly had we reached Calcutta before fever attacked us. I do not wish to make any excuses but I will merely say that after nearly every one of the team had had fever we took the field on the day of the critical match minus seven of our regular team. We did very well indeed in the circumstances but we left the Cup behind us.

In 1894 we again resolved to have another go for the Cup. This time we went down to Calcutta five weeks before the tournament so as to get used to the climate and we were singularly fortunate in finding in Calcutta an apothecary of the Indian Medical Service whose name I am ashamed to say I forget. This apothecary, who had known the Regiment in old days, took complete medical charge of us and understanding the intricacies of a change of climate he managed to bring the team on to the ground on every occasion in the pink of condition. The team of 1894 owes everything to him and whenever I think of him I to this day take off my hat to him. I only hope he may be alive and able to wade through this article.

Of all the Regimental Rugby teams I have been associated with I think that 1894 was the best. The forwards were very much the same as in the 1892 team but they had all vastly improved in pace, combination and dribbling, the back division was greatly strengthened by the addition of Lt. Reeves, and in Bayley and G. J. Smith we had two incomparable half-backs. I have often seen Kershaw and Davies play half-back for England but I doubt very much whether they had a more perfect understanding than Bayley and Smith—the latter were the first pair I ever saw develop successfully the modern scrum and fly half game. Bayley was in addition one of the best place kicks I have ever seen. And so we brought the Calcutta Rugby Cup back in 1894.

In 1895 we were on the Chitral Expedition and though the Regimental team volunteered to march unescorted through the Chitral Mountains to defend the Cup, the authorities refused to sanction the proposal and the Calcutta Rugby Cup had to be sent back. Thus for the time being ended the connection of The Buffs with the Calcutta Rugby Cup but I, in common with those good fellows who formed the team of 1894, look forward to the day when the 1st Battalion goes to India and brings the Cup back to the Regiment once more.

* * * * *

The following is the extract from the *Gibraltar Chronicle* and *Official Gazette* referred to in the opening paragraph of the above most interesting article:—

THE current edition of John Wisden's Rugby Football Almanack quotes a letter which appeared in the *Morning Post* of March 20th, 1920, on the subject

of the origin of the Calcutta Cup, and the following extract, on account of the presence among the troops in the Fortress of the 1st Battalion The Buffs, has an enhanced interest for sportsmen in Gibraltar:—

"The writer, aged nineteen, arrived in Calcutta towards the end of December, 1872. His first day, he played in a cricket match, the next, which was Christmas Day, was devoted to Rugby football! It was a scratch game played on the Calcutta Maidan to the South of Government House. A middle-aged man in a grey flannel shirt followed up most energetically and dropped a beautiful goal. It was C. F. Bernard, an Old Rughian, who later on became the Lieutenant Governor of Burmah.

"The game on Christmas day was such a success that the C.F.C. was at once started. The difficulty was to arrange outside matches, and we soon got tired of the usual club games.

"When The Buffs came to Calcutta the C.F.C. roused themselves to greater efforts, for several of the officers joined the Club, and were keen players. The C.F.C. played The Buffs three times, and as not a single goal was kicked in any of the matches it can be imagined what hard games they were. The Buffs played five officers and ten stalwart Tommies, and we forwards had a very strenuous time. We were quicker behind the scrummage than they were, though they had poor Bobby Kekewich, who in those days ran like a hare. Leslie, Hickson, Ommanney and Home, were some of the officers who played for the regiment.

"After some years members of the old club began to give up playing football, and lawn tennis, which had recently started, offered counter attractions, so that the C.F.C. fell on evil days. It was finally decided to wind up the Club which had kept many of us youngsters fit in wind and limb for several seasons. Our captain, G. A. James Rothney, was a very hard player in the scrummage and never tired. Many of the members had belonged to leading clubs at home. Thanks to our energetic treasurer, H. J. Frew, there was no lack of funds, and the question arose as to what was to be done with our cash balance, consisting of over five hundred rupees.

"Some were for a final banquet, but the C.F.C. were not doomed to perish ingloriously and be forgotten! It was ultimately decided to purchase a handsome Cup of Indian workmanship and send it Home (with a big H) to be played for annually in the match between England and Scotland. (At that time Ireland and Wales were still undiscovered!) This was the origin of the Calcutta Cup in about the year 1879.

"During the time when the international match was in abeyance, the donors, hoping to revive the annual struggle, suggested to the late Arthur Guillemerd that a formal application might perhaps be made to the Rugby Football Union for the Cup to be returned to India, as it was apparently becoming a 'derelict' in Great Britain! However, the 'strife' came to an end, and the Calcutta Cup once more appeared on the scene.

"The C.F.C. was resuscitated in 1884 and has been going strong ever since. It is to be hoped that the Cup, with the two fat cobras up the sides, may sometimes inspire a kindly thought for the donors—the Old C.F.C.!"

(From the "Gibraltar Chronicle and Official Gazette.")

School of Signals.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

A Refresher Course for Instructors and Assistant Instructors in Signalling will assemble at the School of Signals, Maresfield Park, Uckfield, on 28th February next. The allotment of vacancies for this Course will be as follows:—Aldershot, Eastern, London, Northern and Southern Commands, 5 officers and 11 non-commissioned officers.

The Street of Adventure.

BY CAPTAIN H. H. C. BAIRD.

NO II.

LAST month I referred to canvassing for advertisements for my mad adventure, or in other words, the first number of *The Ex-Service Man*, through the publication of which we were bent to establish,—to use Mr. Lloyd George's catch phrase—"A Home fit for Heroes to Live in."

The story of this is simply told. On sallying forth, I happened to meet the master-printer who asked me where I was bound for. "Only to get four or five pages of advertisements for my first number," I replied, whereupon he smiled rather pathetically, and encouraged me with the remark "Now you're going to bump against your first disappointment."

His emphasis, very marked, on the word first, got my pecker up, and I threw at him the following challenge.

"If I give you a pound for every pound under ten pounds amount of advertising I collect during the day, will you give me a pound for every pound over that amount collected?"

This offer was not accepted, and I started off wondering what my day's bag would be.

Here again I met with nothing, but kindness. Pelman rolled up with a page, The International Correspondence School, and several others with a quarter page, so flushed with success I made straight for one of the largest stores in London.

I can only conclude that at the interview which took place with the advertising manager, I must have somewhat surpassed myself in my powers of persuasion, as I left elated with the following words purring through my ears:—

"Captain Baird, you are the best canvassing agent I have ever had in this office. I shall put your proposal before Sir..... at once, and if you ring me up at ten in the morning, I hope to have some good news for you."

The answer I got at ten was that on no account whatsoever would the head of the firm have anything to do with my proposal, so the master printer knew what he was talking about after all!

However the day's bag amounted to just over £80 worth of contracts and I could not complain.

On the 11th Sept., 1918, our first number appeared. Some thousands of copies were sent out seeking subscriptions, and a copy sent to every important newspaper in the country.

In a very humble way, the little paper of 16 pages created quite a sensation. One of the biggest newspaper proprietors in the country took exception to its appearance, owing to regulations existing at that time that no new publication was to be allowed on account of the paper shortage. But I had already wangled a way out of this difficulty.

Also, as the first number was packed from cover to imprint urging the amalgamation, for the common good, of all the then existing ex-Service organisations, these (or perhaps I should say the political elements behind them), lost no time in putting in applications to be allowed to publish their papers, also, so as to be able to trumpet their views. This was exactly what we expected and welcomed. Healthy opposition is always a good thing in the attainment of one's aims, and the fact of its appearance showed that we were being taken notice of.

But the proudest moment of our somewhat short-lived adventure, was to come a little later when, on the 24th December, we received the following from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig:—

The War Office,
24th Dec., 1918.

The Editor *The Ex-Service Man*.

SIR,

I should like to take the opportunity of this New Year to send my very best wishes for the continued success of *The Ex-Service Man*. It has performed splendid work and has been of very great value in preaching the gospel of Unity during the war.

I am convinced that everyone will realize the vital importance of continuing in peace that great comradeship which has enabled us to win the war.

We have many big problems before us. I think that they can only be solved if we continue to show that same spirit of co-operation which has brought us victory on the battle-field, and which is equally necessary in the difficult times that may lie ahead of us.

D. HAIG, F.M.

(To be continued).

From our Letter Bag.

THE DRAGON SENT TO HOSPITAL.

Dear Sir,

I yesterday returned from a luxurious three weeks in the "King Edward VII. Hospital for Officers" where I had had the great privilege of being admitted—for Appendicitis.

While there I saw one or two Regimental journals but not *The Dragon* and I now hasten to fill the vacancy by enclosing a cheque for 17/- for which please forward *The Dragon* monthly to:—

Sister Agnes,
King Edward VII. Hospital,
17 Grosvenor Crescent,
London, W.

for one year plus November and December of this year. It was owing to this operation that I did not attend the Past and Present Annual dinner—an event I had much looked forward to.

Malmains,
Pluckley, Kent.

G. A. E. CHAPMAN.

DRAGON FINDS A FATHER.

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to say that I now have my Father (who I found through the medium of *The Dragon*) with me, and although it was twenty years since I last saw him, I had no difficulty in recognizing him, when he stepped out of the train at Pretoria. I am very pleased to see my old captain, W. H. Trevor, has settled down in my native town—he always was a wise man. I wonder where his son is (who used to call me Mance): he must be quite a man now.

87 Oak Avenue,
Premier Mine,
Transvaal,
South Africa.

E. P. FRANCE,
Late 7605 E Coy.,
2nd Battalion.

Cancellation of Lord Cavan's Tour.

The Secretary of State for War has decided that in present circumstances it is desirable to cancel the proposed visit of General the Earl of Cavan, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, to Singapore and the Dominions.

Retired Pay Officers.

A new Article in the Army Pay Warrant provides that an officer who is in receipt of retired pay, or who retired with a gratuity, or who is a member of the Regular Army Reserve of Officers, may not enter the service of a foreign power without the consent of the Army Council.

CONWAY WILLIAMS.

Many years London Manager for F. W. FLIGHT.

BEING a practical Cutter myself I personally wait on my clients, to whom I can guarantee distinctive Uniforms or Mufti.

I specialize in Hunting and Evening Dress Clothes.

All Miniatures and Decorations Mounted to Customers' orders.

CLIENTS WAITED ON PERSONALLY.

INSPECTION INVITED.

SWEATERS, SCARVES & TIES OF BUFFS COLOURS IN STOCK

17 HANOVER STREET, LONDON, W.1.

THE
SOLDIER'S
BEER.

McEwan's

Celebrated . . .

“ARMY ALE.”

The favourite beer throughout all parts of the Indian Empire.

1924

Supplied to the Officer's Mess and Sergeant's Mess, 1st Battalion THE BUFFS, at GIBRALTAR, by Saccone & Speed, Ltd.

Supplied to the 1st Battalion THE BUFFS, at GIBRALTAR, by the N.A.A.F.I.

Supplied to the 2nd Battalion THE BUFFS, at PORTLAND, by the N.A.A.F.I.

Wm. McEwan & Co., Ltd., Brewers, Edinburgh.

HOLMES

Charles E. Burgess, Proprietor

7 MERCERY LANE, CANTERBURY

HIGH-CLASS GROCERIES, PROVISIONS

FRENCH and ITALIAN GOODS

Collector and distributor of all the latest and newest produce brought on to the European Markets at LONDON STORE PRICES

FAMILIES WAITED ON — MESS SUPPLIERS

“ OZO ” Stops

Headache, Toothache, Neuralgia
and all other nerve pains

6½d. per box of 8 tasteless doses

Proprietors:

WALKER & HARRIS, LTD.

Three Boxes
Post Free.

Chemists,

CANTERBURY



Flights Limited.

Military Tailors and Outfitters

Regimental Tailors by appointment to

The Buffs
The East Yorkshire Regiment
The Royal Scots Fusiliers
The Royal Welch Fusiliers
The South Wales Borderers
The Scottish Rifles
The East Surrey Regiment
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment
The Border Regiment

The Royal Sussex Regiment
The Hampshire Regiment
The Dorset Regiment
The South Lancashire Regiment
The Welch Regiment
The Essex Regiment
The Sherwood Foresters
The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)

The Northampton Regiment
The Royal Berkshire Regiment
The King's Own Yorks. Light Infantry
The Middlesex Regiment
The Manchester Regiment
York & Lancaster Regiment
The Durham Light Infantry
Royal Ulster Rifles
The London Rifle Brigade

LONDON: 4 NEW BURLINGTON STREET, REGENT STREET, W. 1
WOOLWICH: 5 FRANCES STREET ALDERSHOT: 29 HIGH STREET
CAMBERLEY: 68 & 68A HIGH STREET

*Telephones: 2346 Regent, London; 300 Woolwich; 296 Aldershot; 359 Camberley
Telegrams: "Aflighty, London"; "Flight, Aldershot"; "Flight, Camberley"*

J. H. G. HAMILTON.

(Late FRENCH & SON).

WINE MERCHANT.

(ESTABLISHED 1739).

**26 St. George's Street,
CANTERBURY.**

Telephone: 148 Canterbury.

THE FISHERIES

Tel. 30.

Proprietor: H. J. HOPPER, late K.R.R.C.

3a St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury.

FRESH FISH DAILY

(Licensed dealer in Game).

POULTRY — GAME — RABBITS.

CHARLES BARROWS

37 Northgate Street

CANTERBURY

Grocery, Provisions, Hardware,
Brushes, etc.

Personal and prompt attention given to all orders.

ST. LAWRENCE LAUNDRY CO. LTD.

OLD DOVER ROAD

CANTERBURY

OFFICERS' WORK A SPECIALITY
INSPECTION INVITED

SUITS DRY CLEANED & PRESSED
EXPEDITIOUSLY & WELL

PHONE—45 CANTERBURY

Emigration by Counties (Continued).

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT).

A SETTLER after two years will own a bungalow, 10 cows, pigs, poultry, a horse and plough, and the freehold of 100 acres of first-class land, but will owe the Western Australian Government a sum not exceeding £1,000, which he repays with interest in the following 30 years. (Interest only for the 3rd to 13th year, and then capital and interest on a graduated scale till the 33rd year, when the debt is completed).

During the first two years, settlers are advanced up to £3 a week for subsistence, and this will be found ample for all necessities, as no rents and other charges have to be paid. This is an advance, and is included in the total sum that the settler has to repay eventually.

The charges are roughly as follows:

Clearing 25 acres including £3 a week by pay and share of foreman's wages	... ..	£350
Fencing	... ..	50
Provision of a well	... ..	20
Bungalow	... ..	240
10 cows	... ..	150
Horse, plough, pigs, etc.	... ..	100
Overhead charges say	... ..	50
		£960

The tithe deeds of the land belong to the settler directly he is approved, but these of course are mortgaged to the Government Bank until the loan is repaid.

As the State advances the loan, it is to her interest to give only first class land and to help the settler until he can repay.

This liability for about £1,000 may seem a great deal, but when one considers all that a man possesses and the amount of labour that has been put into the plot, it is a very reasonable amount. And one does not often get the offer of a loan of £1,000 in this country nor the chance of owning a freehold of 100 acres, which, as intensive settlement increases, must also increase considerably in value.

At the end of the first two years this land is in good running order, returns from crops and stock will soon be forthcoming, and at the end of the third year it is estimated that the settler's income will be £290 and his expenditure £100.

After five or six years men should be living at the rate of £400 a year, and many are doing much better than this. Obviously much depends on the man himself, who after all is working all the time entirely for his own benefit and for that of his children.

To the older people, the children's prospects will appeal more than their own. The Government provides schools free on each group, or possibly for two groups, and intelligent children have the opportunity of free education right through the University. The State is particularly liberal and insistent on good education.

But as the farm gets developed and the children grow, so do their prospect of owning good property. They are brought up to the land, and have every chance of becoming prosperous landlords.

This scheme should appeal particularly to men leaving the Army and Navy, to avoid suffering the hardships of unemployment and the difficulty of finding work.

Those desiring to improve their positions and those of their children in various walks of life have here an excellent opportunity of working for their own benefit and being their own masters, provided that they are able and willing to work hard.

While various trades will be useful in a group, a carpenter and a blacksmith are essential, and a percentage having farming or gardening experience are valuable. As things develop, other callings will be vacant,

butter factories, fruit-canning factories, etc., will be required, and the more that marketing, etc., is done on co-operative lines, the greater will be the success.

To-day Western Australia imports about £2,000,000 value of dairy produce, hence the market for dairying is close at hand.

Generally speaking, all applicants and their families must be physically fit and capable of hard work.

Those with only disability allowance or with defective eyesight would not be accepted.

The maximum age is 45, but where there are growing sons, this may in certain cases be exceeded.

The fare to Western Australia is £33 per head; the Government pays £11, leaving £22 to be paid by the individual (children half-price).

Landing money £3 per head is collected before leaving England, and is given on arrival at Fremantle to the migrant by the Government to ensure that he has enough for current expenses on landing.

Under certain conditions, part or even the whole of this £25 may be advanced and repaid according to circumstances.

All migrants have to be passed as physically fit by a specified doctor at 10s. 6d. per adult or 26s. per family. This sum is not advanced.

The Devon and Cornwall Migration Committee is formed for the purpose of giving any help possible to intending migrants, and of watching their interests, not only before departure, but it is hoped also after they have arrived in the new area of our Empire.

"Years Ago."

AN EXTRACT FROM "THE GLOBE" OF JUNE 21ST, 1811.

AMONG the many fresh proofs daily received of heroic valour displayed by our Army in the hard-fought battle of Albuera, neither ancient nor modern history records a more exalted instance than the late striking conduct of the Buffs. In defence of their Colours, four officers and six sergeants were successively killed or severely wounded; and though only 34 men escaped, they had the glory of returning from the field with the banners under which they had so nobly fought."

* * * *

AND THE "STAR," JUNE 18TH, 1814.

HASTINGS, JUNE 16TH.

The 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Foot have received a route to march immediately to Lewes, from Hastings, where this battalion has been quartered some time. Mr. Shorter, the Mayor of Hastings, waited this day on the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Morris, "to express to him, in the name of the Magistrates and Inhabitants of Hastings, their very great regret upon the departure of the 3rd, or Buffs, from Hastings, whose uniform good conduct and regularity, during the whole period they have been quartered in Hastings, has obtained for them the sincere thanks of himself, as Chief Magistrate, and also of all the inhabitants of the Borough of Hastings."

* * * *

Saturday last, Cribb and Gulley, the boxers, were presented by Captain Barclay, to General Blucher, before whom they exhibited a specimen of their pugilistic art, to the great satisfaction of the gallant veteran. Captain Barclay informed Marshal Blucher that this Cribb was "the Champion of England performing before the Champion of all Europe!"—when the General facetiously replied—"Cribb has been dubbed Marshal Cribb, by his brother pugilists ever since. Captain Barclay had also a set-to with the pugilists, and exhibited his amateur talents."

The 4th Battalion.

NEARLY four years have elapsed since the 4th Battalion The Buffs was reformed after The Great War. During the last of these four years, the Battalion has been within reach of its full peace establishment of 636 all Ranks and in fact the strength stood for a short time at 637. We are most anxious that this standard should be maintained in the future, but even as it has been no light task to get to the point where we now stand so will it be no easier to keep our present position. It is well that this should be understood by all Buffs and readers of *The Dragon* lest we all slide into the groove life wherein we consider that a position reached is a position won. No greater tactical error exists in war and no greater fallacy is there in time of peace. It is not possible to maintain with success a stationary position. This is a fact and it applies in Military as well as in civil business life perhaps more in the latter case. Since then the Territorial life is so closely dependent upon civil life the application is stronger, doubly strong upon us. We must go forward or backward, let the latter be but whispered lest the germ spread! It is our purpose in these few lines to call to our aid all those forces which should be at our disposal to forward the progression movement.

In the first place let us consider our establishment in relation to annual wastage. Continuing as we do now we may count upon a total strength of 750 other ranks annually, being the numbers which will appear upon our Books during any one normal year. These figures are derived from a study of averages and are not mere guess work. The annual wastage is thus 130 other Ranks allowing for a monthly strength average of 620. Up to the present time we have succeeded in keeping up this steady progressive flow. Every four years, however, we expect to suffer a wastage greater than in the previous three. This is accounted for by the fact that the present Battalion reached maturity in a short time and on a four years contract basis. In 1924 we are to be faced with our *first bad year!*

During the past years we have been doing our utmost to prepare for this possible bad time by consolidating our position, popularising the Territorial Movement and so attending to the comfort and efficiency of our men that they themselves will either continue with us or induce the rising generation to take their places. We know well that the Serving Soldier is the best recruiter in the world by virtue of his soldierly appearance, by what he says and by what he does, but alone he, with the best will in the world, cannot succeed. He needs encouragement and support, understanding and consideration. We appeal to you all to accord this to the men, to the officers, to the Battalion, to The Buffs! We ask this of you one and all readers and readers' friends whom we hope will read these ill-penned lines, do what you can to stimulate public opinion in favour of The Territorials. We all believe that the movement is good and necessary. Good from the point of view of health and good fellowship, necessary for our national security. With public opinion, that greatest controlling factor in our social life, behind us to help and support us, we shall continue to progress as an atom, but an essential atom in The British body. Think of the Territorials as an institution of no matter and we are doomed—may be so, though we hesitate to voice it. The Officers who devote nearly all their leisure hours to this good work appeal for the help of one and all throughout the county and we contend that they have a right to it. We realize how easy it is to pass by saying the Territorials are run by the State who looks after them, they don't need anything from us. Yes, but we know it is no harder task to go about saying that it is good and right that men, young men, should join the Territorial Army; they should

do it. The Public have many calls upon their purses ad nauseam, but surely little on their tongues. Let us all help when and where we can.

MAJOR HOWARD SMITH'S FAREWELL.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I shall be glad if you will allow me to make use of your valuable space to convey a brief message to all ranks of the 4th Battalion, The Buffs.

Now that my period of appointment as Adjutant to this Battalion has expired, I would like to thank all ranks for their loyal support which they have accorded me during the three and a half years of my Service with them. Without their help and interest nothing could have been achieved. The willingness with which they have always given their aid to every endeavour, great and small, has been throughout, a great source of encouragement. From nothing to something of which they may all feel justly proud, this Battalion has grown during these three and a half years and I know that to those who have been with us and to those who remain is attributable the success which we have made.

In expressing my deep regrets at leaving, and again my appreciation of the kindness and consideration which I have always received at their hands, I would exhort them to continue their splendid work and thus consolidate the position so hardly won.

Yours faithfully,

L. H. SMITH, MAJOR,
The Buffs.

MUSKETRY.

The results of the Musketry for the year ending 31/10/23 are as under:—

" B " Company average	...	...	...	76.9
Winners of Lord Harris Shield.				
" B " " "	...	...	...	7.56
" A " " "	...	...	...	7.33
" C " " "	...	...	...	6.39

Highest possible points.....115

RETURNED AS QUALIFIED MEN BY ATTENDING CAMP DRILLS AND MUSKETRY.

" A " Company	...	...	...	42
" B " " "	...	...	...	141
" C " " "	...	...	...	89
" D " " "	...	...	...	163
				435

Percentage of Qualified 72.1%

ANNUAL DINNER.

The Officers of the 1/4th Battalion held their annual re-union Dinner at Gatti's Restaurant, on Saturday, December 1st, 1923. It was a very pleasant and successful evening, Lt.-Colonel Mainwaring-Dunstan, T.D., in the Chair. Owing to indisposition, Colonel Graham Gosling, O.B.E., T.D., was unable to be present.

SITTINGBOURNE DETACHMENT.

The detachment are now busy on miniature range firing both for recruits and trained men. We hope to publish the results of all winners in our next month's issue.

Our first reorganized Annual Smoking Concert and Prize Distribution since the war takes place on Saturday, January 5th, 1924, and all ranks are now looking forward to a good evening's enjoyment, and we hope that we shall be able to give a good account of the concert also a full list of the various winners and our guests present.

The Billiard Tournament is now near a finish and some very good games have been played especially between Lce/Cpls. Costen and Hockey. The latest pastime we have in the club room is Skittle Pool. It will be a toss up who will get the distinction of being the Skittle King, for we have several members who are hot stuff on the two devils.

Whist Drive and Fancy Dress Dance.

On Wednesday, December 12th, 1923, we held a Fancy Dress and Carnival Whist Drive and Dance which was a great success, fifteen tables being occupied at Whist and about 100 at Dancing. The voting for the best dresses was very close. Each dancer not in Fancy Dress was issued with a voting card to record his or her vote according to the number carried by the competitor.

Old Boys' Visit.

Several of our old boys who left us a few months ago to join the regular army, and being on Christmas Leave did not forget to pay their old comrades a visit, we were all very pleased to see the old faces again and we shall always make them welcome at any time they are in Sittingbourne.

WEALD COMPANY.

On Sunday, 11th November, the Company paraded for the Armistice Service at Horsmonden Church. This village had kindly postponed its service from the 11th in order that the Horsmonden platoon could parade on that day at headquarters at Cranbrook. There was a good muster under Capt. Cheesman, other officers present being Lieuts. Alexander and Winch. The Drums under Sgt.-Dr. Hatcher and representatives from Cranbrook and Yalding also paraded. A feature of the parade was the strong muster of ex-Service men under Mr. Munn, headed by the Horsmonden village Band.

It is gratifying to note that a very large portion of those men who have fulfilled their Territorial engagement have signed on for a further period. It must be confessed, on the other hand, that at present there is not the influx of recruits we should wish. This is the time to get them in, and we want them.

The Yalding platoon are fortunate in having the use of the local Rifle Club's miniature range. This winter practice indoors is sure to lead to better results when firing their annual range course next year.

These notes unfortunately must go to press before an account can be written of the Company supper and prize-giving on December 22nd. We feel sure it will be a happy reunion.

The scribe who has endeavoured month by month to record the doings of the Weald will, with this number of *The Dragon*, lay aside his pen. He will be succeeded by a younger and far more ready writer. The Weald notes hereafter will, no doubt, be one of the brightest features of *The Dragon*!

D COMPANY.**Dances.**

The first of a series of fortnightly Dances took place at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 28th November, 1923, from 7.30 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. About 130 people were present and a quite enjoyable evening was spent.

The second Dance took place on Wednesday, 12th December, from 8 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. and on this occasion 270 people were present, which was considered an excellent result and advertisement of the general success of our first Dance.

A point worthy of note was that the first arrival at the second Dance was our old friend and Staff Instructor, ex-C.S.M. P. Stroud, who has just returned to live in Dover after a well-earned holiday in Carlisle. Now that he is in the District again we hope we shall see quite a lot of him. Another point to note was that all three Permanent Staff Instructors we have had since re-organisation were present.

Amongst those present at the Dances, in addition to the Dover Officers of the Company, were Lieut. Kimber, R.N., Capt. I. Bushell, R.F.A., Capt. Donald, M.C., R.F.A., Capt. C. E. Luck, M.C., late R.E., Capt. J. Spackman, M.C., late R.G.A., Capt. Stokes, late Ox and Bucks, L.I., Lieut. C. H. Brooke, 4th Buffs, Lieut. Wood, R.E., 2nd Lieut. Mills, R.E., C.S.M. Barron and C.Q.M.S. Wisdom.

The duties of M.C. on both occasions were admirably carried out by C.S.M. B. Couchman (Permanent Staff) who was ably assisted by R.Q.M.S. G. Arnold. The orchestra was supplied by Mr. B. Cattle and was considered one of the best we have ever had in the District.

If the attendance continues to double at each of our future Dances, we shall be having "overflow meetings" in the Transport Shed, Billiard Room, etc.!!!

We understand that our Folkestone Detachment has not had much success with their Dances this Year. Might we suggest that they bring their supporters over to Dover when we hold our Dances in the future! At the same time we shall be only too pleased to see Members of other Companies at our Dances and can promise them good times.

Other News Items.

As we are led to believe that we are losing the services, as Adjutant, of Major L. Howard Smith, in the all too near future, may we, "D" Company, express our thanks to him for all he has done for us during his "term of office," and we trust that he will not forget that "D" Company will always be very pleased to see him at any time and in any place.

We understand that Colonel R. McDouall has been appointed to the Command of a Territorial Brigade. Several Members of this Company had the pleasure of serving under him on the Somme and in the Ypres Salient, when he commanded a Brigade of "Londoners." Whilst we congratulate the Brigade he has taken over, on their obtaining him as Colonel Commandant, yet, we can but feel very envious of them!! Can we say more!!

We much regret that we are losing the very capable services of Sergeant Mead as Steward of our Club, but at the same time we wish to congratulate him on being appointed to the Stewardship of the Dover Club.

We were very sorry to hear that Mrs. Couchman, wife of our Permanent Staff Instructor, had to enter the Dover Hospital and undergo an operation. We are glad to be able to state that the operation appears to have been a satisfactory one and we trust she will shortly be out of Hospital.

We should like to congratulate Cpl. Ames on his appointment to Transport Sergeant, and we now feel confident, should another Eruption take place in Europe, that we shall get our rations and rum issue!!

Sergeant Doe is on a Machine Gun Course at present and has had to take a pet Vickers Gun with him with all spare parts, etc. Our friends, the N.C.O.'s of the R.G.A. (T) state that they are glad it is not considered necessary, when they go on a Course, to take a pet 9'2 Howitzer with them!!!

Our local agent and reporter for *The Dragon* is on a Course of P.T. at the Depot preparatory to going to the Army Gymnastic School at Aldershot. We hope that these courses will give him sufficient "impetus" (or "physical jerks") when he returns to us and consequent thereon, more news of this Company will be found in these Columns in the future.

"SUBSTITUTE."

8th Battalion Dinner.

IT is with great pleasure that we give publication to the following, and we look forward to publishing in future issues the names of those who have responded. May they occupy a full column!

Dear Sir,

As an outcome of the recent parade and subsequent dinner of the Buffs' Past and Present Association, I have been approached by one or two men to see if it would be possible to arrange a dinner for the 8th Battalion at some future date.

I shall be much obliged therefore if you can find space in *The Dragon* to insert this letter so that anyone who may be in favour of the idea can write to me at the above address to that effect,—giving also the names and addresses of any others who served with the 8th Battalion to whom they think the suggestion might appeal.

I have already heard either directly or indirectly from five Officers and 19 Other Ranks who are keen on the plan, but feel sure that there are many more old 8th Battalion fellows who would relish the idea of spending an evening saying "Do you remember me?"

With the compliments of the season to *The Dragon*.

Yours sincerely,

GORDON LINDLEY,
10 Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, Late Lieut., 8th Bn. The Buffs.
Kent.

Tonic.

(From a Correspondent).

Dear Sir,

I hope I shall not be considered arrogant in sending the larger subscription to *The Dragon*, although I never rose in the Buffs beyond the single stripe of an unpaid Lance-Corporal.

Although I only served with the Regiment for a comparatively short time—I enlisted on 25th January, 1917 and was drafted to a Cadet School in December of the same year, having been in France for only about three months—I cherish the kindest memories of that period of my life. I fear there is but little in *The Dragon* which my short service enables me to appreciate—but I am only too glad to do what I can to assist a paper which is no doubt of great interest to many of my old chums.

D. RAE-FRASER,
Lieut. Comdr. R.N. (Retd.)

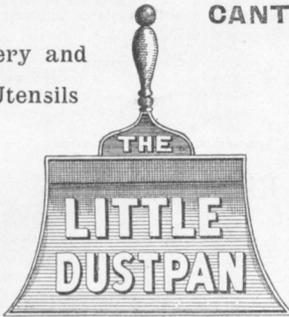
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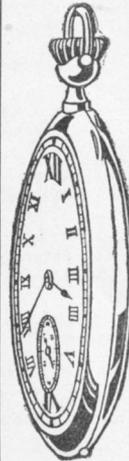
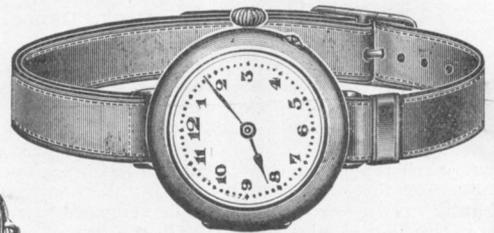
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Hygiene.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS disease is brought about by the invasion of the body by foreign or living organisms. At one time it was supposed disease was attributable to atmospheric influences, and the air—particularly night air—was the cause: people would sleep at night with all windows tightly closed and hanging drapery or curtains over their beds in order that the night air may not reach them. The veil worn by women about this period, and which is still the fashion in some quarters, probably owes its origin to the theory of "bad air."

It has been, however, proved without fear of contradiction that the cause of infectious disease is a germ. Some people say, "if this is so, why should dirt be held up as causing disease?" the answer is simple; the dirt in itself does not cause disease but becomes a prolific breeding ground for organisms which in their turn convey the disease to man in various ways. In other words, the dirt is the magnet attracting organisms which multiply rapidly under the favorable conditions afforded by the dirt.

During the 17th century, the first observation recorded is that of watching the action of minute organisms on putrid meat. In 1662, a Dutchman named Pleneitz, founded the germ theory: he experimented on sheep and discovered the fact that by injecting a certain germ into a healthy sheep, the animal contracted a particular disease.

The primary factor of disease is therefore a germ and the secondary factor the condition of health of the person attacked. The germs or organisms of some diseases have not yet been discovered such as Measles, Scarlet fever, etc. One may define infectious disease as a disease which is due to the entrance and multiplication of some micro organism into the body and each disease has four stages:—

- (1) The incubation stage,
- (2) The symptom stage,
- (3) The defervescence stage,
- (4) The Convalescence stage.

The period of incubation is of essential importance from a military point of view, because a man, though infected, may not show any marked symptoms and moreover he may not have the slightest suspicion he has been infected. This is proved by the fact that in South Africa, men obviously were infected by the contaminated water, yet, during the period of incubation fought and marched feeling no effects, but at the same time infecting others in various ways. It is this unconscious spreading of disease that necessitates the utmost precautions being taken and is a nightmare to our medical officers.

In a recent case of Small Pox in London contacts had to be traced all over England and put under observation, the total contacts in a few days possibly running into thousands, each being a probable carrier of the disease germ. One can well imagine the anxiety of responsible medical officers when a case is first notified of a dangerous infectious disease. During the period of convalescence the same danger exists of a patient considering himself better and going about contrary to orders and spreading the germs broadcast.

It may seem impossible, but cases are on record of the germs of enteric fever being carried by men many years after they have recovered from the illness, and for this reason it is not advisable to employ persons in any capacity connected with food who have once had the disease.

The other periods are not so important from the point of view of the spread of the disease as the patient is under strict control and contact is safeguarded. The symptoms generally take the form of a rash, spots, fever, etc., and this possibly is the first indication the man receives and the danger is only realised on report-

ing sick. During the period of defervescence the disease is being gradually mastered and the fever temperature becomes lower.

Whether an attack will be mild or bad depends on the condition of health previously maintained by the person attacked. Each man should ask himself the question, "Am I in a fit state of health to fight a dangerous disease?" If not, make it so before it is too late.
J.E.

Richborough.

ATARNISHED silver pathway running through

A stretch of silt, stained by the sunset hue,
Between old rusted buoys that lean awry,
Up to the wharf, where idle ferries lie
Beneath the useless cranes that creak and grind
And make complaint to ev'ry passing wind—
"We were Destruction's agents, now destroyed,
"To feed the battle-line we were employed;
"Oil our stiff joints, to use our works compel,
"We served in War, could serve in Peace as well."

Here, where the sea and winding river meet,
Are tugs and launches, blistered by the heat,
With woodwork warped and iron eaten through,
Embedded in the mud—all idle too!—
Untended sluice-gates—so the river sank—
The line of lighters moored along the bank
Have strained their cables, till upon their side,
With keel exposed and hatchway gaping wide
They useless lie, beside abandoned stores,
A silent witness to the waste of wars.

Out of the pitiless darkness that holds an unseen fear,
Nosing between the buoys, the bluff-bowed transports
steer;
Back from that grim Gehenna, the shell-torn Land of
France,
Broken and shattered with service, fruit of the last
advance:
Up to the wharf, make fast, the train is swung to the
line—
Driver stands to the lever—his engine starts with a
whine—
Out through the crossing-gates, between the fields of
wheat—
Out to the smell of the clover, warm with the July heat;
Out to the heart of the country, back to the city ways,
Back to the land of England, back to her quiet days.

Let us return to the wharf, the clank of the windlass
chain,
Fussy snort of the engine, wheeze of the loaded crane:—
Shells for the guns in Flanders, food for the fighting-men,
Fodder for horses and mules—they sail with the tide,
and then—
Out in the grey of the dawn, while the world is yet
asleep,
Out to the mist-wrapped sea the loaded ferries creep;
Nosing between the buoys and out to the fear unseen,
(Mines that have broken moorings, the lurking sub-
marine)
Not to the merchant seamen the rush of the fighting
chance,
Hidden and awfully sudden, Death waits off the coast
of France.

A tarnished silver pathway running through
A stretch of silt, stained by the sunset hue;
Between old rusted buoys, that lean awry,
Up to the wharf, where idle ferries lie
Beneath the useless cranes that creak and grind
And make complaint to ev'ry passing wind—
"We were Destruction's agents, now destroyed,
"To feed the battle-line we were employed;
"Oil our stiff joints, to use our works compel,
"We served in War, could serve in Peace as well."

ERIC C. FRENCH.

Regimental Gazette.

The Depot. DISCHARGES.

6279050 Pte. J. Checksfield, 6279980 Cpl. C. Crawley, 6282151 Pte. Clark, 6282176 Pte. H. J. Cook, 6280175 Pte. J. Brown, 6282161 Pte. B. Humphries, 6282187 Pte. J. George, 6282195 Pte. H. Selves, 6282225 Pte. B. POUND, 6282227 Pte. M. Wisdom.

No. 7559085 Pte. M. Wisdom will be paid up to and for 2nd November, 1923, on which date he will be discharged the Service under Para. 363 (vi.) (a) King's Regulations.

PROMOTIONS.

Reference Part II. orders No. 116, dated 15-11-23, sub-order 5, the promotion of A/Cpls. Adams, Martin and Hollands was to complete establishment, that of Cpl. Wright was vice Cpl. Driscoll (discharged), and that of Corpl. Dillon to complete establishment.

STRENGTH-INCREASE.

The following joined 2nd Battalion direct from Netley on 7-12-23, and are struck off Depot strength accordingly:—

6279460 Pte. W. Lambert, 6281652 Pte. A. Little.

RECRUITS.

Pte. J. Gibbons, Pte. R. G. Linkens, Pte. J. Hogan, (late 299441 R.A.F.), Pte. A. G. Sandy (late 6279522 The Buffs), Pte. P. F. Theobald, Pte. A. Austen, Pte. J. E. F. Drury, Pte. S. Jefferies, Pte. D. S. Rose, Pte. F. H. Chewter, Pte. F. Petars, Pte. F. Reynolds, Pte. A. E. Ladd, Pte. H. M. Day, Pte. T. H. Tritton, Pte. S. G. Joy, Pte. H. G. Ralph, Pte. S. R. Offen, Pte. J. W. Hook, Pte. J. H. Green, Pte. C. Ward, Pte. P. W. Pinder, Pte. A. W. Hart, Pte. F. E. Samuelson, Pte. A. R. Wraight, Pte. C. D. Beales.

The 1st Battalion.

INCREASE.

6278728 Cpl. A. Burgess, from Malta, 13-11-23.
1401353 A/B.M. F. Leach, A.R.C.M., from United Kingdom, 23-11-23 and family.

DECREASE.

6280371 I./C. W. Freeman, 6278433 Bdn. T. White, 6281117 Pte. J. Potter, 6281132 Pte. J. Tabrett, disembarked at Southampton, ex-H.M.T. Assaye, 19-11-23, and struck off strength from that date.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

6280267 A/C.S.M. P. Ransley promoted W.O. Class II. and appointed C.S.M., 18-8-23.

6278107 A/C.Q.M.S. P. Lane, promoted Colour Sergeant, and appointed C.Q.M.S., 14-8-1923.

6191498 A/C.Q.M.S. I. Williams, appointed C.Q.M.S., 18-8-1923.

6278217 Sergt. G. Clayton, appointed Band Sergeant, 30-1-23.

6280009 Pte. E. Pepper, appointed Unpaid Lance-Corporal, 9-11-23.

6281544 Pte. T. Deveron and 6279366 Pte. W. Osbourne appointed Unpaid Lance-Corporals, 19-11-23.

6191766 C.S.M. C. Terry, appointed A/Detachment Sergeant-Major, 19-11-1923.

6188254 C.Q.M.S. T. Pratt appointed A/Detachment Quarter-Master Sergeant, 19-11-1923.

6278108 Sgt. R. Dixon, appointed Acting Paid C.Q.M.S. vice Burt, reverted 15-11-1923.

PROFICIENCY PAY.

6281377 Pte. S. Sandwell, 6281398 Pte. G. Richards, 6281624 I./C. S. Coe, 6280232 I./C. A. Horton, 6280386 Pte. E. Hewett, granted Proficiency Pay, 1st Grant.

SERVICE—HIGHER RATE OF PAY.

The undermentioned have been granted an extra 9d. per day on completion of 2 years' Colour Service:—

723435 Pte. P. Matthews, 1665400 Pte. C. Hill, 6281409 Pte. A. Curtis, 6281419 Pte. A. Cavell, 739247 Pte. E. Smith, 6281436 Pte. F. Carter, 6281439 Pte. N. Shardlow, 6281444 Pte. J. Rook, 6281397 Pte. T. Smith, 7337419 Pte. F. Longhurst, 6281420 Pte. R. Heasman, 6281418 E. Goodsell, 6281426 J. Heasman, 6281437 Pte. J. McKenna, 6281445 Pte. F. Cooper, 6280472 Pte. P. McDonnell, 6279936 Dmr. J. Smith.

BOYS—AGE.

6280237 Dmr. T. Wylie, attained age of 18 years, 11-11-23.

RE-ENGAGEMENT.

6278362 Sgt.-Dmr. P. Norwood, re-engaged for "The Buffs" for such time as will complete 21 years' Colour Service.

4th Battalion.

DISCHARGES.

6135704 Pte. H. T. Ashford, 6280470 Pte. H. Bryant, 6280481 Pte. W. Bryant, 6280471 Pte. E. Brockman, 6280585 Pte. H. Bushell, 6280791 Pte. W. Elen, 6280808 Pte. W. A. Elen, 6280753 Pte. R. George, 6280866 Pte. W. Cawson, 6280745 Pte. S. Clark, 6281353 Pte. T. Hemmings, 6281503 Pte. C. Hodges, 6281551 Pte. W. Hillier, 6281887 Pte. W. Eldridge, 6281805 Pte. B. Jarman, 6280656 Pte. T. Mount, 6281396 Pte. E. Doveraux.

RE-ENGAGEMENTS.

6280763 Sergt. F. Glover, 6280593 C.Q.M.S. T. Bishenden, 6280790 Cpl. H. Martin, 6280562 I./S. J. P. Lester, 6281005 I./C. L. G. Carter.

ENLISTMENTS.

The u/m men having joined are taken on the strength and posted to Coy. as shewn:—

6282245 Pte. V. W. Bilsby, 6282246 Pte. S. Scamp, 6282247 Pte. R. G. Longhurst, 6282248 Pte. J. H. Ansell, 6282249 Pte. J. Madden, 6282250 Pte. W. C. Barthorpe, 6335511 Pte. F. J. Abbott, 6282251 Pte. A. G. Lamberton, 6282258 Pte. A. Mills, 6282259 Pte. F. Spencer, 6282257 Pte. L. Ingleton.

PROMOTIONS.

6281342 Cpl. L. Ames, promoted Sergeant (Transport) vice Gifford discharged w/e from 10-11-23.

A Day at the C.O.'s Orderly Room.

(1st charge).

C.O.: "What have you to say for being absent?"
Accused: "Please Sir, I was returning to barracks walking against a very strong wind and being unable to light my pipe, had to turn round and you see, sir, had my back to the wind. After lighting my pipe, I forgot and walked for two hours in the wrong direction and when I discovered it, I ran all the way home to barracks and found I was late."

(2nd charge).

C.O.: "Monstrous! its up to you to find out beforehand like every other good soldier what time the last train leaves. You did not arrive back until this morning: the only soldier in the Battalion absent from the field day. Disgraceful! What have you got to say?"

Accused: "Beg your pardon, Sir, I was going to report at Charing Cross that I'd missed the last train, but you was in such an awful temper at missing it yerself, swearing so 'orrible at the Station master, that I would'nt tell yer."

(3rd Charge).

C.O.: "Drunk again! What do you mean by it?"
Accused: "I deny being drunk in the military sense, although I admit to being intoxicated."

C.O.: "Oh! then using a little common sense, I'll fine you two and six instead of half-a-crown."

(4th Charge).

C.O.: "Why were you late on General's parade? Shocking! noticed you myself running on just before the Salute."

Accused: "Well, Sir, I didn't hear the guard room gong strike "one.""

C.O.: "Seven days C.B. that strikes "one" alright."
(5th charge).

C.O.: "Its a most inhuman action to illtreat a mule."
Accused: "The Sergeant's wrong sir. It wasn't a mule at all—it was an 'orse."

C.O.: "Good gracious! don't you know a mule when you see one?"

Accused (with eyes fixed on the C.O.): "Yes, Sir."
(6th Charge).

C.O. (to accused charged with drunkenness): "Your Company Officer says you have two very bad sheets: this will not do."

Accused: "Yes Sir. Not my fault Sir. I know they are dirty, but the Quarter-Master Sergeant won't change them."

I.E.

Dreams.

I DREAMED: and saw myself full-stretched asleep
An unseen power bore me aloft with speed
To High Olympus. In a flowery field
My head was rested on a smoothened stone.
And though my eyes were leadened with sleep
All things were clear. I saw the fair Dian
Step forth from out her chariot, approach,
And lightly lay upon my lips—a kiss!
My soul, alight with love, unsealed my eyes,
And thou, O fair one, fairer than my dream,
Wert standing near, gazing down upon me.
Amusement shone from out thy deep grey eyes;
Thy lips smiled, too, as though they knew my dream—
And I wondered if—if my dream were true!

H.

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Price Sixpence.

Personalia.

WE congratulate the Queen of Denmark on her escape from drowning by falling through ice. The King and Queen were inspecting pack ice in The Sound at Taarback, near Copenhagen, when the ice broke under the Queen's feet and she fell into the water up to her waist. Rushing to her rescue, the King succeeded in pulling her on to the sound ice before assistance arrived.

Captain T. Wheler has gone to the South of France, and writes from Cannes, where he is staying for the present.

We congratulate Major Howard Smith on being second in the stroke competition at St. Augustine's Club at the open meeting organized on Boxing Day. We understand that he and Mrs. Howard Smith did well in the mixed foursomes in the afternoon.

Major C. C. Cobbe is spending the winter in London and then hopes to return to his old house near Felix-towe.

Major F. W. Tomlinson has been elected a provisional member of the Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich.

We hear that Mr. Dawkins (late 8095 Pte. J.) is still working as porter at the Granville Hotel, Ramsgate; whilst at the Guilford Hotel, Sandwich, working in the same capacity, is Mr. G. A. Bourner (late no. 5222, 1st and 8th Battalions).

Mr. C. G. W. Robson, who recently retired from the 1st Battalion and is often at the Naval and Military Club, is working with Lever Brothers. He hopes to get some cricket this summer.

It may not be generally known that Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Campbell, C.I.E., O.B.E., Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant of H.M.'s Bodyguard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, served for some time in the Buffs. He joined in 1882 and was later transferred to Probyn's Horse (11th King Edward's Own Lancers). Colonel Campbell is a member of the Naval and Military Club.

We congratulate Mr. A. J. Tassell on being made a Metropolitan police magistrate in place of Mr. Tennyson d'Eyncourt. Many of our readers have seen Mr. Tassell playing for the Old Stagers during the Canterbury Cricket Week, under the name of Mr. Bell Roper; he has been stipendiary magistrate at Chatham since 1902.

We hear of Colonel W. H. Trevor and Captain H. H. C. Baird as having entered for the Army Golf Meeting to be played at Hoylake during the first week in May.

We were interested to see the following letter from Captain Maiden in a recent issue of *The Times*:—

"It would be interesting to know whether the conscientious objectors and other "martyrs," who celebrated their imprisonment by a dinner at the House of Commons on Wednesday night, found their inspiration for this unique gathering in the reunion dinners of those British officers and men who were imprisoned in Germany and other enemy countries between the years 1914-1918."

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davis of 12 Postley Road, Maidstone, wish us all a prosperous New Year. Mr. Davis has found some very interesting reading in *The Dragon* which reminds him of old times when he was serving.

Mr. R. P. King (late No. 6278874) asks for the addresses of Mr. A. J. Hall (late No. 6278907) and Mr. D. C. Woods (late No. 6279089) both of the 2nd Battalion.

Mr. C. F. Kember writes: "I was very sorry to see about poor old Winstanley having died. I knew him for many years. He was in my company, "A," in the 1st Battalion."

Mr. H. J. Marchant writes from Somerset:—"Both my wife and myself eagerly look forward to our copy and it brings back and keeps old memories green. There are not any ex-Buffs this way. Kindest respects to R.S.M. Dare, R.Q.M.S. Ings and all the old boys especially him whose initials, W.M.S.—form part of each copy of *The Dragon*. Wishing you every success and a circulation beyond 5,000." (Hear! hear! *Ed.*)

Mr. W. M. Maillard, late O.R.S., Depot, asks us to convey the best wishes of Mrs. Maillard and himself to all the friends they made whilst serving at the Depot.

We offer our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Pat Lynden Bell on passing into Sandhurst 12th on the list and on being awarded a Prize Cadetship which is equivalent to a scholarship of £90 a year. We also congratulate Sir Arthur and Lady Lynden Bell on the success of their son and join them in the hope that in 18 months we shall see him wearing the uniform of the Buffs.

We note that Major and Bt.-Lieut.-Colonel H. B. Potter, D.S.O., retires on retired pay as from 16th January, 1924, with seniority in the Regular Army

Personalia—Continued.

Reserve of Officers, as Lieut.-Colonel, as from 27th March, 1922. We wish him the best of luck.

We congratulate Lieut. F. M. Stoop on the birth of a son, reported on page 50. Lieuts. Stoop and R. O. C. Ward, both famous Harlequins, joined the "shining Seventh" in 1914. The latter (elder brother of Major H. E. Ward) was killed on the 20th November, 1917.

We are glad to hear again of Mr. Redman (late Corporal W. H. and for many years the adjutant's groom in the 2nd Battalion). He is still working by day in Kensington High Street, as Commissionaire, and by night at the Pavilion. He and his family are all doing well.

Mr. C. Deal sends us the following records of an old Buff, whom he has recently met in Dover:—

Enlisted 16/10/1899; posted Details Londonderry, 31/1/1900; to 2nd Battalion, S. Africa, 6/6/1900; joined 1st Battalion in Burma, 8/5/1902; thence to Aden; then to Dover, 10/12/1904; met 2nd Battalion at Dover; promoted Corporal on manoeuvres in Sussex, July, 1906; left Depot for Aldershot to join draft for 2nd Battalion with Bt.-Major Findlay, i/c., also Lieut. Chichester, Sgt. Webb, Sgt. O. Dowd, Cpl. Burke and himself as N.C.O.'s on 26/9/1908; left 2nd Battalion for discharge after 12 years' colour-service, 15/10/1911; re-enlisted Section D. Reserve, 27/10/11 for four years; mobilized, 5/8/14; joined 1st Battalion at Fermoy, 6/8/14; proceeded overseas, 7/9/14; promoted Sergeant, Sept., 1914; invalided home, April, 1915; joined 3rd Battalion at Dover after discharge from Hospital; transferred to Northampton Regiment and promoted C.-S.-M. (W.O. 2), 15/9/15; proceeded overseas, 24/10/15; appointed a/R.-S.-M., (W.O. 1), February, 1919, at Salonica; returned home later in 1919; finally discharged from L. Res., 31/3/20. His number was 6068, name, W. A. Crascall. Wounded three times and has K. and Q.'s South African Medals, 1914 Star, B.W. Medal and a Victory Medal. Resides at 13 Manor Road, Dover.

Captain A. V. S. Sinclair in sending his subscription for 1924 sends us his good wishes and adds:—"I was glad to read the accounts of how successfully the Past and Present dinner went off and much regretted that I was personally debarred from attending owing to having that large bogey—the Bar (I hope there won't be any mistake in interpreting this!) Final to my immediate front."

Mr. V. J. MacMahon sends us the following items of interest:—Charlie Gover, late 2nd Battalion. A son and heir was born to him on January 2nd at 6.30 a.m., at his home in Walthamstow, both mother and babe are doing well. Charlie informs me that he thinks the young fellow is training for a Drill Instructor and preferably for night work as he sleeps most of the day and exercises his voice at night.

He has also heard from Micky Durham, late Corporal 1st Battalion The Buffs, now Corporal R. Air Force, at Peshawar, N.W.F. He is married and has one child and is doing well. He has been in a good few of the stunts on the N.W. Frontier of late, but has managed to come off scatheless up to date.

Mick Hunt of D Company, 2nd Battalion, is a conductor on the Busses at Walthamstow and faring well.

Professor Pashley, also of D Company, 2nd Battalion, is travelling for Colman's, Ltd., around Birmingham, keeping that Firms' advertisements in good order.

Pony Moore, late Corporal D Company, is a Milk Inspector at Standon in Hertfordshire.

Billy Gwinnell, A. Company's acting schoolmaster, is working on a farm at Ferryside, S. Wales—working 90 hours a week for 24/-. out of which he pays 12/- board, etc., he says the cry of "Back to the Land" is all bunkum. He would much prefer less hours and more pay, if such a job were available.

Stoker Finnis, late D Company, 2nd Battalion Buffs, on *H.M.S. Centurion* at Malta, is in the pink and expecting a rise very shortly, he doesn't say whether it is to be brought about by a boiler explosion or by any other means.

We hear from a reader in Singapore, that Peate, late Bandsman, 2nd Battalion Buffs, is the leading light as a comedian at that city.

Joe Richards, late Sergeant, 2nd Battalion, is working as a caulker at Poplar and is married now.

Tich Birch, Corporal, who left the 2nd Battalion in 1908, is also married and settled down at 77 Wood Street, Woolwich, as is also Mockett Boarer, at 26 Willow Walk, Catford. Both of these would like a line from any who knew them.

Mr. A. Smith writes that he has met an old Buff, late 3396 Pte. H. Butler, now living at 23 Waterloo Road, Maidstone, who would like to give his compliments to all the old Boys.

Captain T. Cook recently came into the office wearing a broad smile and carrying a parcel. "I was never so surprised in my life" was his remark. "Just look at what the Sergeants of the 1st Battalion have sent me! He then opened the parcel and produced a silver tankard (one pint or long shandy size) having more than 40 signatures engraved upon it surrounding the regimental crest. It is a very handsome piece of plate and we heartily congratulate him, not only on the possession of the tankard, but of the goodwill that prompted its bestowal. He wishes through us, to convey his very sincere thanks to the donors.

We congratulate Lieut.-Colonel W. G. F. Barnard, D.S.O., on his engagement, particulars of which will be found on page 50.

As we go to press we hear that... to like Gibraltar in time. At present... hard hockey grounds and a pony not yet... and therefore eating his head off, have produced a... "first impression."

The following donations have been received from our readers for the Benevolent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. H. J. Marchant	0	1	0
Mr. R. F. King	0	2	0
Mr. F. B. H. Uden	0	2	6
Mr. J. Bennell	0	5	0
Miss A. Taylor	0	2	0
Mr. H. Minter, part of loan returned	2	0	0
Cpl. W. Green	0	2	0
Mr. W. T. Brunger	0	2	0

Once again Captain and Mrs. Wale have been balked in their endeavours to reach Gibraltar: this time owing to the railway strike, which has also stood in the way of Major and Mrs. Henry Hardy sailing.

Colonels of The Buffs.

No. 26. General Sir Henry King, C.B., K.C.H., Colonel of the Buffs, 1845-1854.



3rd Foot, 1849.

which runs as follows:—

"A Veteran:—We have to record the demise of General Sir Henry King, C.B., K.C.H., colonel of the 3rd Buffs, which took place on Monday, at his residence, in Sussex-terrace, Hyde-Park-Gardens. Sir Henry was in his 77th year, and had been 60 years a soldier, having entered the army in 1794. He attained the rank of General on the 20th of June last. After some dashing services in the West Indies, where he shared in the siege of Porto Rico and capture of Trinidad in 1797, Sir Henry King went through the Egyptian campaign of 1801, in which, while commanding a squadron of the 26th Light Dragoons, he lost his right leg. He accompanied the expedition to Walcheren, and was at the siege of Flushing in 1809. In the following year he proceeded to the Peninsular, having been appointed commandant of Tarifa, and for his services in its defence received the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Joining the main body of the army a few days after the battle of Salamanca, he commanded the 82nd (now known as the 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment) at Vittoria, and towards the close of that action the command of a brigade devolved on him. For these services Sir Henry King received the Egyptian and Peninsular (gold) medals."

The headquarters of the Buffs reached Gravesend on the 29th April, 1845, and from there, the regiment marched to Chatham and thence, in rapid succession, to Chichester, Winchester, Gosport and Portsmouth—spending only a few weeks at each place, until the 12th October, 1846, when it proceeded to Dublin. It is interesting to note that, en route to Ireland, the headquarters of the Buffs exercised its privilege of marching through the City of London with drums beating, bayonets fixed and colours flying. The then Lord Mayor wrote in the following terms to the commanding officer.—

GENERAL King was appointed Colonel of the Buffs only a few weeks before the regiment returned to England after an absence abroad of twenty-three years; it is presumed, therefore, that he probably met the Buffs, which his predecessor never did during his colonelcy. The writer has unfortunately been able to discover nothing about him and must content himself with quoting his obituary notice from *The Times* of July 27th, 1854,

Mansion House,
12th October, 1846.

"Sir,—I have had the honour of receiving your letter and feel pleasure in recognizing the claim you have so properly made, of the ancient privilege of your Regiment, as having sprung from the City of London, to march through it with fixed Bayonets and Colours flying, and I have given directions, that your entrance at Temple Bar shall be unopposed and your progress through the City facilitated. "It is also gratifying for me to learn, from you, the feelings of pride, and delight, with which your Regiment approached this ancient City, the place of their early formation."

I have the honour to be

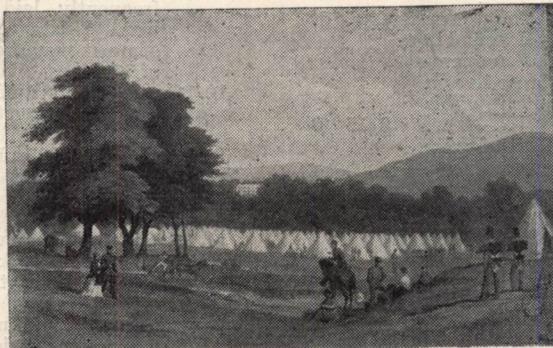
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN JOHNSON, Mayor.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir J. Dennis, K.C.B.,

&c., &c., &c.



ENCAMPMENT IN THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH'S PARK, PILTOWN.
Detachments 3rd Buffs, 85th Light Infantry, Demi Battery, Artillery.

After six months in Dublin, the regiment, in July, 1847, was split up into a dozen detachments, with headquarters at Naas; retransferred in October, to Dublin; and in December it marched to Belfast and from that city provided seven detachments. Here the regiment was presented with new colours (20th May, 1848), and the old ones, under which it had gained its last laurels at Punniar, were shortly afterwards sent to Canterbury Cathedral. In July of the same year, the Buffs proceeded by sea to Waterford and were encamped at Piltown, in Lord Bessborough's Park, until September, furnishing detachments for Fort Duncannon, Carrick-on-Suir and Portlaw. The illustration to this article of the camp at Piltown is reproduced from a coloured lithograph in the possession of the writer; the costume plate is reproduced from a coloured print.

It is impossible, within the limits of this article, to enumerate the two score towns and villages to which the Buffs sent detachments during its three years' stay in Ireland. The country was just recovering from the great famine of the early forties and there was a good deal of unrest, which probably explains why the regiment was so split up. At any rate, the colonel, Sir James Dennis, must have been glad at last to collect his six scattered companies and embark for Malta in the Spring of 1851. The depot companies were left in Ireland and quartered at Boyle.

In November, 1851, on the promotion of Colonel Sir James Dennis to the rank of major-general, Brevet Lieut.-Colonel C. T. Van Straubenzee succeeded to the command of the Buffs who were still at Malta when General Sir Henry King died on the 24th July, 1854.

F.W.T.

The Regimental Committee.

PAMPHLET.

The work on the pamphlet has continued to occupy a large share of the time of the Committee; the drafts of the covering letters to accompany it have been approved and the list of appendices completed. For the information of our readers, arrangements are being made for the pamphlet to be widely distributed throughout the county, and for a copy to be sent to all branches of the British Legion and Toc H., Working Men's Clubs, Local War Pensions Committees, in addition to those sent to all past and present members of the regiment whose addresses the committee is able to obtain.

NEW MEMBER.

Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Eaton, O.B.E., having signified his consent, has been co-opted as an additional member of the committee under the rules of The Past and Present Association.

RE-UNIONS.

The committee are already busy on the work of arranging for the Cricket Week, the Past and Present Dinner and the Golf Meeting.

BENEVOLENT WORK.

CASES ASSISTED FROM DECEMBER 15TH, 1923, to JANUARY 15TH, 1924.

Dec. 15.	Grant given to old Buff; Ten years' service, has a bad wound in chest, and has just had an operation on his neck; tries to live on 4/8 per week with the help of his fellow lodgers.	£	s.	d.
15.	Loan to assist old Buff with family to place daughter in employment, and clear family from embarrassment, loan secured on pension...	7	0	0
15.	Grant to old Buff, 21 years' service, V.G. character, out of work, has wife and three children to keep	1	0	0
20.	Grant to Old Buff with 12 years' service wanted a little help, just discharged from hospital with pleurisy and bronchitis. He had no where to go and we gave him a grant to get him a bed, and to keep him going a little while...	1	0	0
21.	Grant to Old Buff with an exemplary character, out of work, in bad health	1	10	0
21.	Loan to Old Buff 13 years' service, V.G. character, wife in bad health. He has no pension and only earns 10/- weekly to keep himself and wife and child, we made a loan on the advice of the Area Representative for that district. To be paid back quarterly from reserve pay ...	5	0	0
28.	Grant to an out of work old Buff, wanted a little money to enable him to buy a few things to hawk, he has a wife and two children, in poor health	1	0	0
28.	Grant to Old Buff with four children, wife dead. Was earning a good wage until taken ill, and during illness has very little coming in. The rent is fully paid up. He wanted new dentures, and the Prudential Co., were willing to pay the larger portion if we would give the rest	2	0	0
28.	Grant to Old Buff with V.G. character, out of work, has five children			

	dependant upon him, and nothing in the house	1	0	0
Jan. 3.	Grant to the widow and mother of Buffs to enable her to live on her dependants pension until she obtains Old Age Pension in February	1	0	0
5.	Grant to Old Buff 12 years' service, suffering from ulcerated legs, his only means of a living is hawking wood, his wife helps him. Has three children dependant upon him	2	0	0
8.	Grant to Old Buff enlisted in 1870, 72 years of age, has only the Old Age Pension to live on, he tries to do a few odd jobs to eke out a living	1	0	0
8.	Grant to Old Buff with Emphysema of the lungs, out of work, home sold up, wife dead, and he has a girl of 12 to look after, wanted the money to take out a hawker's license and the price of some food, and his lodgings... ..	1	0	0
8.	Grant to Old Buff physically unfit, frequently laid up, wanted a little assistance until he gets some money from the Ministry of Pensions	0	15	0
10.	Grant to Old Buff who applied for assistance to get to Deal to take up a job	1	0	0
10.	Grant to Old Buff with 22 years' service, suffers from hip joint disease, has a family of six, eldest 15	1	0	0
11.	Grant to Old Buff with V.G. Character, out of work, had practically pawned everything, and was nearly starving, was in quite good circumstances until he lost his work owing to decreasing of staff	1	0	0
11.	Grant to Old Buff, good character, dying of cancer, though ill, he kept at work for some time ...	1	0	0
11.	Loan to Old Buff, suffers from a gun shot wound in chest and shoulder, has prospects of a job in Wales, and wanted assistance to get there. Promises to pay back when in work	2	10	0
13.	Towards the education of a son of a Buff at the Gordon Boy's Home	7	10	0
13.	Grant to the widow of an old Buff, is shortly going into The Royal Cambridge Home	0	10	0
13.	Grant to Old Buff out of work, tramping with wife and two children, they were practically starving. Wife to maternity institution	1	0	0
13.	Old Buff, had tramped from Maidstone to try and get work, was told that there was no work available, was starting to tramp back, called here and we paid his railway fare to Maidstone. Had nothing to eat all day	1	0	0

On the 3rd January, 18 Pensions to Widows of Old Buffs, and Old Buffs amounting to £50 14s. 0d. From our petty cash the amount of £4 6s. 6d. has been paid for work done at the Depot by Old Buffs out of employment.

The 1st Battalion.



THIS time we look back on Christmas—a very happy one, too. The New Year has brought a change of weather. The sunshine experienced around Christmas time has now gone and we have instead, cold wind and occasional rain. With the commencement of the Year, "B" Company have started to fire their Musketry Course and "C" Company to carry out their Company Training.

The event of most interest, recently, has been the Garrison Boxing Tournaments at which the Regiment had several winners. The following won in the finals of weights as stated:—Pte. Colvey, Flyweights; Pte. Griggs, Bantamweights; L/Cpl. Baker, Featherweights; Dmr. French, Lightweights. We also had some good losers.

H. E. The Governor was present. Great praise was attributed to Lieut. Milton who had organized the show.

Bayonet Fencing is turning out to be an interesting item in the list of events for the Harris Shield.

T.H.K.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since our last notes were written we have all been busy preparing for Xmas, New Year and the New Year's Dance.

As a matter of fact, Xmas and New Year seems all there is to write about in December as everything seems to have a bearing on one or the other. In fact as early as the fourteenth we heard members talking of the "Festive Season," as an excuse we might add, for when they themselves were Festive. (Spelt with a capital "F" not "P.")

As early as December the Fifteenth, Georgie could be seen hard at work decorating the Mess which by the 24th looked beautiful. Then of course the Festivities commenced in real earnest; our Sergeants' Mess Concert, or I should say, Carol Party began its ghastly work, and we of the "Benedicts" wondered what debts we owed to the single members that they should have their own back in the manner in which they did. But still I think it is a great victory on the Benedict's part, as the Carol Party was unable *i.e.* (too tired) to complete the rounds.

Poor old "Bob," the dear old soul, was still going strong when the Party broke up, the only fault was he wanted to play Father Xmas in every House he went to.

Xmas Day was with us before most of us knew it, and then we commenced to liven things up once again, the Mess being closed for Xmas Day we enjoyed ourselves by visiting all the various Mess rooms, and as each Company had two Mess Rooms, all of us felt a bit "Festive" by the time we had completed the round. Then we carried out the old time-honoured custom of waiting on our men during the dinner hour. We enjoyed doing it, and carried it out in the good old "Festive" spirit, even if one member did drown one of his platoon with custard what matters, be "Festive." At three o'clock we all faded and no one could be seen outside the barrack rooms as everyone was enjoying a well-earned sleep.

We all crept down to our Companies after tea, and helped them in our best manner with their concerts, and incidentally to help lower the "Festive" cheer.

"Jumbo" states he had to visit every Mess Room, and give them a turn, but we think he handles the truth very carefully.

At last our Xmas Day arrived (Boxing Day) and we decided to go to our Sub., and we did, as far as the writer of these notes can remember. Ravo won half a crown, and Georgie sang a song, but by the assistance of Members who weren't quite so "festive," I hope to give a fair account of our doings on "Der Tag". Just before dinner we had all been busy with various sports for the troops, and we had all retired for a snifter when we were visited by our Commanding Officer, Adjutant and our Quartermaster, who came to wish us that jolly old wish—a Happy Xmas and a Lucky New Year. In a neat little speech our R.S.M. proposed the health of the Colonel to the officers of the Regiment, which was responded to with musical honours.

In reply Colonel Power said that there were lots of things he did not like in Xmas in the Army, but one he *did really like* was to be able to come and wish his Warrant Officers, Staff Sergeants, and Sergeants a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, a remark which we all appreciated.

Then we "went our bold" and got stuck, the R.S.M., R.Q.M.S. and other married members waited on us. Tom obliged by pouring out the champagne. We did have a real good dinner, something like the old ones, Bill Waters and Charlie Crown were both played out, so I think that's "snuff sed" about the dinner.

After dinner we commenced a concert which really never finished until closing time. "Bob" and all the other brilliant artists obliging. Toby even now can't remember the second verse of any song. I can't imagine why he doesn't sing "Dolly Grey," or "Bluebell," or anything with a second verse, it was excusable when you were a C.Q.M.S., but now, oh Toby!

Christmas Tree.

The next day we entertained all the married families to tea and the Xmas tree, Georgie arrived with his wife and eight, and everyone was merry. I think the kiddies enjoyed themselves as much as they possibly could do. A great deal of thanks is due to Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Williams, and all the other workers who so kindly helped to decorate the Xmas tree.

Afterwards we wound up with a Social and dance and everyone agreed that a good evening had been spent, and we all parted tired but happy.

We were delighted to have the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews amongst us during the evening. The Quartermaster delighted us with his rendering of "For to-night we'll merry be."

I have another event to record which is too long to include in these notes that being the New Year's Eve dance, it is sufficient to say it was a great success and great credit is reflected on the "old Sky" and his committee in the way that it was run. And lastly let me add that we all appreciate the work of C.S.M. Barrell and his Xmas committee, for without them such a Xmas would not have been possible. T.B.

Things we want to know.

Why "Bob" came in for his Xmas Dinner at 10 a.m.?
Did "Ravo" really win his half dollar?
What Jack thought of the letter?
Who was the instructor on the range who said, "Stop looking White" ?
What "Ravo" thought of his "Beer Shampoo" ?
Has the "Quick March" been done away with?
What "Footy" thinks of the Vickers?
What Daisy means by "Silk" ?
What Drink is "Checkmedge" ?
Who is the Mayor of Demotka ?
When Bob will get the Screws next?

CORPORALS' MESS.

During the month the Corporals have been by no means backward in making the mess a success. Practice dances have been carried on on Tuesday evenings nearly every week, and we have been glad to welcome our brother members from the South. On the 22nd a social was held which proved a great success. Cpl. Bennett, I./Cpls. Phillipson, Wyles, and Powny providing an excellent programme of music. Christmas was one of the best with all of us, and many old acquaintances of the Royal Navy paid us a visit. On Boxing Day we formed another concert and in quick time we raised a good concert in the mess. I will close our notes by wishing all a happy New Year.

Things we want to know.

When is Phoeby Joe getting a larger size in trousers? (Or will he put a piece in the back of his old ones)?
Who was the N.C.O. who called for a straight top?
Why did L/Cpl. Redmond suggest that beer should be given and not bought?
Why did Harry run around the tree after leaving the Sergeants' Mess instead of going up the step? (Was there anything wrong with him).
Does Joe make a good dancing instructor?
Was there anything wrong with Harry and "Badger" when they left the R.E.'s after the billiard tournament?
And why did they hang on each other's arms shouting for each other at the top of their voices?
What bird seed does "Micky" use?
When is "Dasher" writing another letter? (But not a twelve page one).
Which is best for "Lachrie" to drink, black or white without red seal?
Who was the N.C.O. who had trotters in bed with him?
Why does Redmond always volunteer for guard when the social comes off, or is it because he is saving up or is he on the tack.
Who was the N.C.O. who sews stripes on with drying wool?
As Steve is the news taker does his hand ache writing and where does he get his pen and ink from? (Not from the Corporals' Mess).
Does "Ginger" go to sleep when dancing?
Who was the N.C.O. when making out a sick report put age C. of E. religion 3 years?
What caused the picture to fall in the fireplace?
Who right dressed the beer on the table, and were they intending to swim in it?
Who put the Boxing Gloves in the beer at Xmas?
Did Harry commit the murder he was going to do at 3 a.m. Boxing Morning?
Has Wylie sold any more books lately?
How much has Harry got in the Bank now the companies' messing are separated?
Did Dasher get the wind up on New Year's night, and can he find time for letter writing?
Who was the full N.C.O. who asked if the Greek was in his Platoon and was he?
How is seaman's bunking accounts getting on after the fire, and who's civvies is he borrowing for the next dance.
When is Gilio going to do a B.O.

1st Battalion—Continued.

THE BAND.

Christmas has come and gone, and has left us with pleasant memories of one of the jolliest we have ever spent together. It has always been a moot point as to whether the band succeed best in the execution of their arduous toil, (cough!) or in "seein' off the "connor" (crash!) but Christmas proved us to be supreme in both directions. Pardon our modesty. As usual, we attended Divine Service in the morning, and then the band formed circle on the square and played the "Regimental March" and "Roast Beef."

The serious business of enjoying Christmas now commenced. Everybody glided along to the dining hall which had been most effectively decorated by I/Cpl. Fray and his energetic committee, and presently all were amazed at the mountains of turkey and incidentals that were being placed before them. Before the amazement had abated, however, the C.O. accompanied by his staff arrived, and wished us a merry Christmas in a very happy little speech. We toasted him with gusto, the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow" being ably led by our learned and light-hearted friend, Bro. Maddocks, whose slogan during the festivities was "Sozzle you blighters, sozzle!"

Dinner now proceeded apace with many a merry jest and burst of laughter, until the pudding was welcomed in with a mighty shout. Now followed the nuts and wine, over which many a tale was told, "and so to bed," as Pepsy would say.

In the evening we had the honour of entertaining the B.-M. and his family to tea, together with several old bandmen and civilian friends.

Now followed a delightful musical programme in which pride of place must be given to the magnificent violin playing of our Bandmaster, the club-swinging of Mrs. Leach, and the Cornet Solo of Band-Sergeant Clayton, who did all in his power to give all an enjoyable time.

Many were the bandmen that lifted up their voices in song, and Harry Winfield declared that he was "Nobody's Darling," but we refuse to believe that.

Polky presided at the piano and gave us a song as well and the evening was rounded off by a jolly jazz, the music being provided by the "greasy six."

Boxing Day found us playing at the races, spotting winners with marked success, but why, oh why is the Pilot so attached to the post?

On January 1st Inter-platoon six-a-side football was held and we entered two teams "A" and "B," "B" team were unlucky in being drawn with "A" team in the semi-final, but "A" team easily beat 12 platoon in the final.

"A" team:—Bds. Winfield; I/Cpl. Pearsall; I/Cpl. Fox; Bds. Lee, Lewis and Cpl. Jones.

In the Harris Shield we won the Inter-Company Hockey, going through without losing a point. Results—

- "E 14" v. "A" won 7-nil. (Sgt. Clayton, 4; Lewis, 2, and Standen).
- v. "B" won 5-nil. (Sgt. Clayton, 2; Collins, 3).
- v. "C" won 2-1. (Sgt. Clayton and Aylward).
- v. "D" won 3-nil. (Sgt. Clayton, Fox and Standen).
- v. "E 23" won 4-1. (Sgt. Clayton, 2; Lewis and Collins).

THE DRUMS.

Xmas this year has been one of the best, but not quite up to the mark of last year's. Christmas Day started as usual with Church Parade and following was the usual enjoyment. Everything in the way of food and drink was provided and layed out for inspection and at 2 p.m. Dinner was served. Our Dinner this year was excellent, which consisted of pork, turkey, potatoes, cabbage, and butter beans, and for the seconds, Xmas pudding with custard and jelly, and not least the usual drink to wash it down. After dinner we decided to give the Married Quarters and the Irish Guards a few solos, returning back in time for tea. During the evening a sing song and concert was held thus making an enjoyable evening, finishing up about 9 p.m. On Boxing Day Sports were held on the square which included, bayonet fighting, "Lewis Gun" action and tug-of-war, but none of these were won by us. A miniature range shooting competition was held on which we were well represented.

On Thursday, December 27th, the Battalion had a route march round the rock. No doubt this was given to get the Xmas feeling off us.

Football and Hockey are still in full swing here and we have managed to get a few more matches this month, and we are hoping for more so long as the weather keeps fine. So far during December, the weather has been quite warm for this time of the year.

F.W.P.

Things we should like to know.

Does Dancing Instructor come under the many qualifications of the Drum Major?

If so, why doesn't he instruct in Fox-trots?

A COMPANY.

Everybody is saying "Thank goodness Xmas is over," but I believe in their heart of hearts they would not mind if there were two a year; all seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves on this auspicious occasion. The Company Dinner was a really good turn out, and we all thank I/C. Errington and his committee for the way they conducted the task they undertook, it did them great credit. Pte. Brissenden (late of E Company) is to be congratulated on the way he converted and decorated the Dining Room, had there been any prize it surely would have been his.

Ave!

We have had two or three more arrivals during the last month, Mr. Willows has at last arrived but I believe to counteract that, the Captain is going home for a few months, we hope he has a good time—but trust him. Other arrivals to the Company are Brooker from

"B" Coy., Hills, McGann, Drury and Edwards (088) from "E" Company. We are expecting the Schoolmaster back sometime this month, we hope on his arrival to learn something about "V.I." and "H.E." and "The Life of Nelson," etc. I/C. Fielder and Ptes. Gibbons and Swallow will be back this month off furlough, perhaps they will truthfully tell us if a couple of weeks in Blighty is worth the "Ten Guineas," there are a lot more prepared to pay it.

Vale!

I/C. Cahill and Pte. Minns are in their last lap, and taking advantage of the six months trade course preparatory to going into "Civvy Street," we wish them success in every way—a smile does a lot of good, Minns,

We are all very sorry to hear of the proposed invaliding of 1665400 Pte. C. Hill, he went into Hospital some few months ago and now we learn that his health no longer allows him to remain with us, we wish you the best of luck Hill and a speedy recovery.

Now I think we have had our say, except that next month will see either No. 3 or 4 Platoon winners of the Platoon Football, they are a tie and their last game is with each other, so it should be a good game.

We hope next month's notes will be by "Schoolmaster Bruin." THE SUBSTITUTE.

B COMPANY.

Dances.

During the month of December our weekly dances in the recreation room have continued, and at each one we had a large attendance which goes to prove what a great success they have been. Our thanks are again due to Sergeant Gess, and many others who so kindly assist in making them the principal evening of the week.

Sport.

I am sorry to say that very little can be told of the company's results of sport. We did, however, especially well in cross-country running for Mr. Hoares' cup which took place on December the 4th. The whole battalion put up a fine show to gain if possible one more record for the regiment. Our company run exceptionally well, but unfortunately Steve injured his feet owing to the rough track, and was confined to the barrack room for several days. Other runners kept together well and knowing one of their best men was out put more go into the sport.

The hockey match between B v. C ended in a win for "C," the score being 7-3.

The Christmas Festival.

Christmas this year has been such a great success that really one could fill a book, but as, no doubt, there will be many notes from all companies, we must tell you in brief. First of all a committee was formed under Lt. Oliver to draw up the menu and various events for the occasion. That being completed, decorations were bought and about four days before the great day I/C. Wyles, Ptes. Waller, Brown and many others, commenced clearing the gymnasium. Soon, the whole place was changed from what it had been to a splendid room with stage at the far end for the evening social. Christmas morning opened at its very earliest with carols for the barracks which were rendered by the members of the band.

After breakfast the company proceeded to the King's Chapel for Church. On returning to barracks the company dealt with the dinner which was excellent. We owe many thanks to Mrs. Bennett for so kindly helping with the mince-pies, and to our company cooks who work so hard on these occasions. I might mention also that "B" Company is exceptionally lucky in having two such energetic men as Ptes. Cousins and Tunton as their cooks. During the dinner healths were drunk and all the season's greetings towards officers and men were given. In the evening a large number of friends from other branches of the army and from the navy paid us a visit and heartily joined in. This, I must say, proves what good feeling and friendship there is between the Buffs and other services.

Boxing Day was well spent, the two companies at Casemates, "B" and "D" joining in sports. The chief events were Tug-of-War, Hand ball and firing on the miniature range. The former was won by number 5 platoon.

I/Cpls. Richardson and Giles secured second place in the hand ball competition which was won by I/C. Cook and Pte. Phillips.

Greetings.

Now that we have commenced another year, all the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men join in wishing all members both past and present a very bright and happy New Year.

Things we want to know.

- Who likes McEwan's best?
- Who chased the negro out in the middle of the night?
- Or was it a Christmas nightmare?
- What made the drummer beat his drum with chair legs on Xmas morning?
- Who was the man who bought a new lock for his kit box to stop the cake from running away. (And did it break his heart to lash out?)
- Who is Munkus. (Is he a Jew, or an Isaacstein?)
- How much has "Ricky" got in the bank and when is he buying his motor car?

Why did so many T.T.'s drink McEwan's on Christmas day?
Will the R.T.A. turn all the "Buffs" Pussyfoots.
What makes the men kick and cry when drunk. Is it the horse shoes and tears in the beer.

Who plays the mouth-organ in "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, now "Blower" has gone?

Who sent "Muscles" the postcard with monkeys on, and was it his brothers on the "Rock." (The nuts will follow early in the New Year.

C COMPANY.

We have been very busy with N.C.O.'s and Scouts Training, half the N.C.O.'s and sixteen Scouts during the first week or so and the remainder of the N.C.O.'s and sixteen Scouts going through now, expecting to finish 11th January, then we shall be very near Company Training.

Bayonet Fencing.

Beat 23 (E. Coy.) by seven fights to one, hoping to do the same with 14 (E. Coy.), 5-1-1924.

Hockey (Harris Shield).

C v. A. Result: Draw 2-2. Sgt. Cox and Ayliffe scoring.
 C v. 23. Result: Win, 2-1. Sgt. Cox, 2; Ayliffe 1 Scoring.
 C v. D. Result: win 1-0. Sgt. Cox Scoring.
 C v. B. Result: Win 7-3. Ayliffe, 4; Manders, 2; Sgt. Crouch.
 C v. 14. Result: Lost 1-2.
 C v. D. Win 1-0. Ayliffe Scoring. } Garrison Hockey Cup.
 C v. Artillery. Lost 0-2.
 Team: Ptes. Richards, Bailey, Hearne, Sgt. Crowne, I./Cpls. Parry, Crickson, Ptes. Mander, Capt. Wilkins, I./Cpl. Ayliffe, Sgt. Cranc and Cox. I./C. Hughes played in goal on the 4-1-1924 and played well.

Football.

C v. R.A.S.C. Won 3-1. C v. Algerceries F.C. Won 4-1.
 C v. R.A.S.C. Won 5-2. C v. H.Q.R.A. Won 4-0.
 C v. H.M.S. *Renaissance*. Won 2-1. C v. H.Q.R.A. Won 1-0.
 C v. D Coy. Lost 0-1. C v. Algerceries F.C. Lost 0-1.
 The team that played at Algerceries was as follows:—I./Cpl. Hughes, Bailey, Pte. Elliott, Findlay, I./C. Parry, Erickeen, Manders, Cpl. McClean, Bates, Nash, Edwards.

The game played with Algerceries Football Club at Algerceries was the finest game our team have played. They beat them four goals to one, the first time, scorers being I./Cpl. Parry, Cpl. McClean, Bates and Nash. The Algerceries Public asked for another game and spoke of the good play of our lads but we lost by one goal, which was through a misunderstanding between I./Cpl. Hughes and Pte. Elliott; on the play the Company should have won, only they could not score. Our team are doing well, having only lost two games as yet. Findlay has now found another position as Right Half and shows form.

Xmas.

Thanks to all it may concern the Dinner turned out a great success this year, and we thank those that assisted with the decorations, and all the talent that went to make the concert a success. Wishing ALL a happy and prosperous New Year. Better late than never.

D COMPANY.

With the opening of our notes this month, the company all join in welcoming Mr. Fox who has just arrived, and has been posted to the Company, and is already the mainstay of the Company hockey team and it is anticipated that he will also be the mainstay of the Company football team in the near future.

Hockey.

The Harris Shield Matches have been in full swing, the Hockey league being already finished, the result of which was as follows:—E 14 first; "C" Coy. second and "D" Coy. third.

In the first match of the league we played "B" Coy. and won 2-1. In the second match we played "A" Coy. and drew after a strenuous game.

In the 3rd, 4th, and 5th matches we played E 23 and won 2-1, "C" and lost 1-0, and E 14 and lost 3-0.

Bayonet Fighting.

In the Harris Shield Bayonet fighting we have fought twice, firstly against "B" Coy. winning five fights to four, this fight proved very interesting, team leaders having to fight owing to it being a draw. Secondly we fought E 23 winning five fights to three.

There was a platoon bayonet fencing competition during the Christmas festivities in which we wish to congratulate 15 platoon team on getting into the finals, but they lost to No. 5 platoon.

Tug-of-War.

The platoon Tug-of-War on Boxing day proved a great success, not only by teams pulling teams, but by teams pulling themselves round. By taking a little of the weight from their heads and placing it on the rope, 13 platoon successfully, reached the semi-finals.

We must not pass over a very successful Christmas without a vote of thanks to the C.Q.M.S. and his messing committee, also I./Sgt. Palmer and I./C. Gunningham and their volunteer helpers for the splendid way they decorated the Mess room, but at the same time we regretted that both the above N.C.O.'s were so unlucky as to be on guard Christmas day, needless to say they were not forgotten for visiting rounds were everlasting.

A smoking concert was held during the evening, naval visitors were in force, the result being a life on the ocean wave for everybody, finally and naturally a life in the rolling deep, we must thank the company orchestra for the music supplied which was very plentiful and soothing, even until 3 a.m. the 26th strains of "Yes we have no bananas" and "Three o'clock in the Morning" could be heard.

Football.

On Boxing Day a platoon six-a-side football competition was arranged and we were very pleased to see 13 and 14 platoon in the finals, 14 eventually beating 13 by four points to one.

Before closing our notes we wish every Buff past and present a happy and prosperous New Year.

Things we want to know.

Did Tubby enjoy his Christmas day dinner?
 Do yellow four-seaters become Omnibuses on Christmas day?
 Will the C.Q.M.S. sell wads this year on Range?

Who is one-step Willie?
 Why some of these have not been published?
 (Because there was no room. Ed.)

W.H.P.

MACHINE GUNNERS.

Our original writer of notes having departed on a leave much desired (I'm wondering if this note biz. is the cause of it) it has apparently fallen to my lot to carry on, why me I don't know. Personally I can't see what people want leave for when in a station like this, it surely is not that the place lacks many of life's necessities or even luxuries.

Congratulations to Lieut. Reid, M.C. and Sergt. Holman on obtaining a D at the M.G. School, Netheravon, also to Cpl. Elliott on qualifying. Hard luck Wally. No doubt by the time these notes are in print we shall have them with us again, and the next candidates for the school will be after tips.

Congratulations also to Pte. Kisbee on his marriage. He may rest assured his piece of cake had a warm reception, I lost count after G.C., who was 20th, had had a taste of it.

Next we must welcome the return of Sergt. Burt to his old platoon, also the advent of fifteen new hands from the different companies, who have already shewn good form in the competitions held round about Xmas and look likely to prove favourable in helping us to hold our own in various sports in 1924.

On Boxing Day we were fortunate enough to be winners of the inter-platoon tug-of-war, Groups of H.Q. counting as Platoons, but got beaten in the semi-final of the Bayonet Fighting.

Our Gun competition was won by I./C. Crabb's team and an "action" contest between Vickers and Lewis, caused a bit of excitement and saw the former victors by two clear minutes. This contest arose from a wager, but an unexpected prize came along. Thank you, Sir. Who put that clamp ring on, Oh?

We have had several good games of football with varying results and though no important matches have been played, we have quite a good team. We hope to give our hockey team an airing soon to bring them up to the scratch or the Band will be doing it on us.

Xmas passed off very well, thanks to the able carving of our Q.M.S. and his staff, the only trouble being that we couldn't find room for all the victuals provided, in the evening a concert was started—Conductor (under difficulties) Sergt. Burt—but the audience being uncomfortable, the floor was cleared and what might have been a dance was commenced. However all good things must pass away as did the ill effects after a route march on the Thursday.

To conclude, may Good Luck follow our members who have been returned to Companies as a reserve. To them we extend best wishes for the coming year.

ODDS AND ENDS.

DEPUTY.

We have taken a New Year's resolution—to make some sort of attempt to bring before our contemporaries, the doings and what-not of the ODDS & ENDS.

Whether its a permanent resolution, or just an appropriation of *Dragon* space for a few months, depends upon the ODDS & ENDS exerting themselves and making "copy."

Having as we have heretofore remarked, taken a New Year's resolution, we commence with a recital of our doings on Christmas.

Perhaps these wish also be referred to by the M.G. Platoon scribe, (as we and the Gunners constitute 23 Mess), but, we are hoping that these journalistic efforts will be given precedence and so be read before the M.G. notes? (*That's just where you're wrong! Ed.*)

We offer thanks to Cpl. F. T. Beer and his messing staff for spending our 5/- so admirably, (if he has any left, he can either return it to us on a Thursday, or invest it until next Xmas).

For the decorative scheme "Aussie" is to be commended, said commendation of course includes his staff.

Our Mess, talking without prejudice, was by far the best, maybe the other Companies will say the same of theirs, but believe us, ours was it—ask "Biddy" he helped to decorate it, (now then "C" Coy.)

Everything went well before dinner, the only trouble being, getting dinner down to the Guard at Sandy Bay, however, with the help of a car, half a dozen dixies, Sgt. Burt and two volunteers, together with two punctures on the way, we got it there: then the "dinner call" went, and the ceremony began,—Castle must have used three knives at once judging by the rate the dinners were being served. After the first couple of minutes, things were running smoothly, that it seemed as if Xmas came every day; A/S/S. Blake and Sgt. Parks are to be congratulated on their hustle in serving and the drink servers—well didn't you see them galloping!

Judging by the laughter, our C.S.M.I.M. must have had a witty turn of mind, or was it service?

After tea we prepared for a social evening, numerous artistes promised to appear, but probably they were hooked elsewhere, as they were conspicuous only by their absence. To console us the Navy gave a song, and the evening was passed in dancing, orchestral effects and whatnot, provided by Price and Hopkins on their banjos, for which we tender thanks; thus passed another Xmas of our 7 and 5—where shall we spend the next!—well, speculation is rife at present, so we'll leave it at that.

ACB.

Is it true?

That the prevailing topic of silk in 23 Mess could be forgotten if another was thought of?

That Sgt. Burt only wanted a joy ride to Sandy Bay?

That unnecessary expense was caused through someone taking a corkscrew borrowed for the occasion?

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

- Parsons.**—1665230 Pte. W. Parsons of a daughter, Eileen Florence, born on 26/1/24.
- Stoop.**—On the 16th January, at Ridgway, Sutton Green, Guildford, to Enid, wife of F.M. Stoop, a son.
- Beal.**—To Pte. C. Beal and Mrs. Beal, a son, at Canterbury, 18/12/23.

MARRIAGES.

- Green—Eldridge.**—On Tuesday, January 1st, 1924, at The Primitive Methodist Church, London Road, Dover, by the Rev. A. T. Slater, Corporal (O.R.C.) W. Green, 1st Battalion The Buffs, and Miss Ivy Clara Lois Eldridge, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Eldridge of Dover.
- Hassan—Niblett.**—On 25th December, 1923, at Walhamstow, 6279493 Corporal G. Hassan to Annie Niblett.
- Mannerling—Staines.**—On 22nd December, 1923, at Westminster, London, 6278077 Sergeant A. Mannerling to Evelyn May Staines.
- Wass—Horner.**—On 19th December, 1923, at Tonbridge 6278514 Corporal J. Wass to Annie Elizabeth Horner.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant-Colonel William George Frederick Barnard, D.S.O., late The Buffs, son of the late Major-General W. O. Barnard, late colonel the Manchester Regiment, and Mrs. Barnard, and Sylvia, younger daughter of Major-General J. C. Rimington, C.B., C.S.I., late Royal Engineers, and the late Mrs. Rimington.

Engagement.

The engagement is announced between Sgt. K. C. H. Cornwell, I.A.O.C., Lahore, India, son of the late Col. Sgt. F. Cornwell and Miss Agnes Adams Earlsfield, London, daughter of Sgt. (Dence) Adams. 1st January, 1924.

IN MEMORIAM.

Boorman.—In ever loving memory of Cyril, late Lance-Sergt., 1st Battalion The Buffs, who died in Poona Hospital of enteric fever, October 20th, 1903.

MOTHER, SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

Soldier, rest my warfare o'er,
Rest in Sleep that knows no waking.
Far away 'neath Indian shores,
For the last reveille waiting.

Obituary.

THE DEAN OF CANTERBURY.

THE passing of the Very Rev. Henry Wace, Dean of Canterbury, will strike a note of sadness in the hearts of all Buffs, when they learn that—in the fulness of years—our beloved Dean has gone to his rest.

It is nearly a quarter of a century since Dr. Wace came to Canterbury as successor to the late Dean Farrar, and during all those years, when he presided with such dignity and wisdom over the destinies of the Cathedral, a generation of Buffs has passed under the shadow of its fabric.

His association with the Regiment was of the closest and most intimate character. As Warden of our Chapel in the Cathedral, and as Custodian of our Colours, which hang on its walls, he exercised the office of his sacred trust with pride and loving care. He identified himself with everything that affected the welfare of the Regiment with that vigour and forcefulness

that were inherent in his nature, and in him we found a doughty champion, ever ready to uphold those privileges, which are our glorious inheritance.

Only last month a gracious letter from his pen appeared in *The Dragon*, accepting the Honorary Chaplaincy of our Association, and now—before we were able to reap the benefit of his wise counsels—we have to mourn his loss.

Before leaving these shores to take their place on the battlefields of the Great War, our fighting battalions entrusted their Colours in his safe keeping. Who, on those occasions will ever forget his unbounded faith in the justice of our cause and his supreme confidence in the valour of our Men of Kent?

And again, when, at the conclusion of his faithful stewardship he gave them back, unsullied and un tarnished, enriched by heroism and sacrifice, who will ever forget his words of welcome and thankfulness?

Men of all classes—of all shades of opinions—were unanimous in their admiration and affection for him, and none perhaps, recognised his integrity and steadfastness of purpose more than did those who differed from him.

It was his indomitable spirit—his hatred of cant and hypocrisy—his fearlessness and outspoken candour, that attracted men to his banner, and like a warrior, he fought to assert his unswerving adhesion to his convictions.

He was a great Englishman, a great patriot and a great churchman, and we Buffs were proud to think that in him we possessed an ally so staunch and a friend so true.

We shall all miss that familiar figure, that stern, but kindly face, and no more shall we be stirred and thrilled by those oft spoken words:—"Here comes the Dean."

The last journey to the Cathedral, where a vast concourse awaited his coming, was made through the ranks of the Buffs. Let those young soldiers who formed the Guard of Honour carry that scene in their minds for all time, and let them remember that he was one of the greatest of their countrymen. Let them try to follow in his footsteps and mould their lives after him, so that they may be loyal and devoted soldiers of their King and Country and true servants of their God.

Thanks very much.

The following have very kindly renewed their subscriptions to *The Dragon* at the higher rate of 15/- per annum:—

- General the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, P.C., G.C.B.
Major General Sir A. Lyden Bell.
Brig.-General H. C. de la M. Hill.
Colonels W. E. R. Kelly, G. V. Daughish, Sir C. B. Vyvyan, Bart., R. McDouall.
Lt.-Colonel L. W. Lucas.
Majors F. S. Reeves, Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C. D. K. Greenway, A. Houlton, C. C. Cobbe, G. A. Porter.
Captains R. K. Price, H. C. T. Stronge, H. C. Morley.
Lts. C. J. Wood, H. S. Knocker.

Buffs Help in Spanish Fire.

A serious fire occurred on the night of the 27th November at the neighbouring Spanish frontier town of La Linea. The Kursaal was completely destroyed. In response to the Spanish authorities' request for assistance, detachments of the Irish Guards and the Buffs and the local fire brigade crossed the frontier before midnight, returning early this morning after extinguishing the fire.

The 2nd Battalion.

Christmas with the 2nd Battalion.



A JOLLY time was spent by the N.C.O.'s and Men whose lot it was to remain in Barracks on Christmas day. Extras were the order of the day, and these, where working was required, were done to a turn, and its "hats off" to the Messing Officer and his Staff.

At dinner time, N.C.O.'s and Men sat down to a hearty spread, which was composed as follows:—

Roast Beef and Turkey, Baked Potatoes, Cabbage, Peas, Xmas Pudding, Custard, Jellies.

It is stated that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and by the state of the majority of the plates at the end of the meal it is certainly true. We say majority because there was a minority, one of the latter being Tubby Spooner, who, being the oldest soldier present, scorned his "duff." When asked if he would like a portion of Xmas pudding and custard, he remarked: "No, give it to the youngsters with a few "Wads" as well, they can do with it." Colonel Kennedy visited the men whilst they were at dinner, and expressed the hope that they would all spend several Christmas's together (Cheers).

Several of the Officers paid a visit and one would hear between Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men, past Christmas's being gone over again, which demonstrated the good fellowship existing between all ranks.

Before closing this brief description, words of praise must be accorded to those who worked hard to prepare things for Christmas day. These were Lieut. Cartwright, Officer-in-charge of Messing, Sgt. Whittingham, Sgt. Webb, Cpl. Ward, the Cooks, Mess Orderlies and last, but not least, the fatigue men.

The Dining Hall was tastefully decorated, also the tables, and the said decorations being backed up with plenty of fodder, inspired many, whose first Christmas was being spent in the Army, to say "Roll on next Christmas."

Hockey.

2nd Bn. The Buffs, v. 2nd Bn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

This match in the 2nd round of the Army Hockey Cup was played on December 11th, 1923, on the King's Park Ground, Bournemouth and after a most exciting match resulted in a win for the Buffs by three goals to two.

The game was fast and furious throughout. During the first half the Argyll's had the initiative, were quick on the ball and went very hard and seemed to take our team by surprise. Our team was very slow and had no combination. Sidwell in goal and Tutt outside left were best. The score at half-time was luckily only 1-0 against us.

On changing over the Argyll's scored another goal but gradually our team started to improve. Howe set the example and decided that as the ball would not come to him, he must go to the ball. Presumably an Indian watching the game reminded him of Mahomet. His example was followed by the rest of the team and we began to go hard and combine and soon got the upper hand.

Howe scored our first goal. Cartwright and Tutt made several good runs, the latter just missing a goal by sending it over the top. Ward and Hoare showed signs of their old combination.

About ten minutes from time Howe scored a second goal. Meanwhile our defence was going splendidly and kept a fast lot of Scotch forwards in hand. Lee and Pack did great work and Penlington was always on the spot, well supported by Rice and Beal. The Argyll's had two chances at an open goal but luckily their shots went wide. Only five minutes to go. By a wonderful effort Tutt scored one winning goal two minutes from time. Penlington, Sidwell and Tutt played best

for us, and our opponents' centre half and goal-keeper against us. Their backs were steady and their forwards fast.

About seventy officers and other ranks went over from Portland to watch the match. Lieut. Taylor, R.N. and a brother naval officer very kindly refereed.

Goal: Sgt. Sidwell; Backs: Pte. Lee, Cpl. Pack; Halves: Capt. Rice, Lt. Penlington (Capt.), Cpl. Beal; Forwards: Lt. Hoare, Cpl. Ward, Lt. Cartwright, Capt. Howe, L/C. Tutt.

The Families Tea and Xmas Tree.

Friday, December 28th, 1923, was indeed a red letter day for the families of the 2nd Buffs. Such a Xmas tree and tea never has been known to the kiddies before and they all had the time of their life.

At 4.30 all were seated to a splendid tea and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. The room echoed with children's laughter and the bang of crackers. Eventually they all allowed themselves to be pulled away from the goodies of the tea table and as if by magic Santa Claus arrived and with him a great big Xmas tree laden with presents, which from all appearances ha'nt a spare branch. The children were simply breathless with delight but now realized that Santa Claus was calling them for a hasty dip.

On the stripping of the tree presents were handed to the youngsters by Santa Claus himself and the exclamations of delight and surprise were full proof of the pleasure the toys gave. Each one seemed to have just what they wanted.

The next item was the distribution of presents to the wives, which was kindly carried out by Mrs. Kennedy, assisted by Colonel Kennedy. Each one received a useful gift and all appreciated very much the thought and present. The arrival of the pianist suggested dancing and it was a pretty sight to see the pretty little ones dancing and having a real good time.

Musical Chairs were next enjoyed, after which came Oranges and Lemons and the fun at the final was great. Santa Claus once more came in evidence calling all children his way and they each had sweets and fruits. Cheers were then called for and they all responded to their utmost.

Our Married families would like to express their gratitude to Colonel and Mrs. Kennedy, Major and Mrs. Norman, Major and Mrs. Beevor, Capt. and Mrs. Corney, Rev. Pentin and all who helped in giving such a glorious time. Special thanks from the children to Capt. Corney, who carried out the duties of Santa Claus to the letter.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Billiards.

After so many years without a Billiard Table, we were at last able to commence a Mess Billiard Handicap which was successfully brought to a finish last evening (8/1/24), but owing to the cold very few members watched the final.

Forty-two names were entered, but owing to Courses, furlough and a few non-starters the Second Round was considerably reduced. Hearty congratulations to Skipper Webb who won after a very sporty game. Sergt. Hamblin made the highest break—29.

J. C. B. SIMON, C.S.M.

A COMPANY.

Christmas is over and we had a jolly good time, and we give our hearty thanks to all those that were responsible for the arrangements.

No. 1 Platoon is glad to see Lieut. Stainforth, M.C. back again after his long absence for three months on a course at Shorncliffe. We are also glad to see L/Sgt. Page back to the Company after his P.T. course at Aldershot (plenty of physical jerks for us now).

We are sorry to lose Lieut. Rowe, who is going to West Africa, also Old Jock who is going there too. Lieut. Rowe will be a loss to us in the Football line. In the recent Regimental Hockey match at Portsmouth, Cpl. Ward played a very good game at forward. A number of the Company went over to watch the match.

Many congratulations to Pte. Kimber on his appointment to Lance-Corporal.

Cpl. Wood, L/Cpl. Wilkins and six other ranks have been away at Netley on duty. They return to us on the 1st of February.

Capt. Backhouse is now Commanding the Company in the absence of Capt. Field, who is doing 2nd in command of the Battalion. We were all very pleased to see our old Company Commander Lieut.-Colonel Potter, D.S.O., the other day when he came up to the Verne Citadel.

Things we want to know.

What is the reason of Jock going to Africa, is it too cold for him in England?

When is Buffy going to take up Football again? (Sam is anxious to know).

Football.

We are getting a good team together and are easily holding our own in the Battalion. Our best performance was against B Coy., which we won by seven goals to one, the scorers being Pte. Gosling, four, who has already nineteen goals to his credit this season; Pte. Harris, two, L/Cpl. Wickham (Capt.), one.

Pte. Raddon played a good game in goal and saved quite a few puzzling shots. Pte. Young was also very good at right-half and we had our opponents' forwards guessing all through the game. We are hoping to do well in the Harris Shield.

2nd Battalion—Continued.

B COMPANY.

The company had a very merry Xmas (as far as some of them could remember). Most of the N.C.O.'s were on leave at the time, and Sgt. Mannering "went and did the trick—"Got Married." We wish him every success in life and hope he will keep his football career up.

We welcome Lt. Lister and Sgt. Howard back to the Company, after their good work on the Battalion training Cadre. Sgt. Robioun is on leave and Sgt. Larkin has taken his place in the Sergeants' Mess. We have had nothing of interest in the way of sport. We played H.O. Wing "B" group, "Crank Handles," and after a clean game lost 2-0, but our goal-keeper, Lt. King, saved us from a heavier defeat. Against "A" Company we won 3-2.

Cpl. Marsh has returned to the Company after a long course of P.T. at Aldershot.

Things we want to know.

Has "B" Coy's Goalkeeper got his international cap yet?
Who is the man who had a packet of biscuits sent him on Christmas day, and did he feel snaky.

When does a certain officer's servant become a daddy?
Who is the Lance-Corporal passing out on a sick report?
Did the Muck o's enjoy their beer on Christmas Day?
Who is Felix the cat?
Did the Boys like their Fill.
Is Jock's Queenie Pining for him.
Who was the man who told the Prisoners, there is no Barchon (Bacon).

C and D Companies and Band and Drums are on leave at present, but when they return we hope to have some very good games, especially with "D," who we have not played.

Things we want to know.

Will "Dead Eye" get his cap as a centre forward?
Will "Snowy" get insured before he plays football?

M.G. PLATOON, H.O. WING.

There is not very much news this month owing to the gunners having been on leave during this month. A fourteen weeks' course on machine guns starts on the 14th under Capt. Haymen and Sgts. Dennis and Buxton, after which the platoon will probably go to Fort Burgoyne, near Gosport, to fire the annual Course. Lt. Penlington is on leave and afterwards goes to Netheravon on a M.G. Course. Lt. Hoare is also on leave and he also goes away on a Veterinary Course. They will be greatly missed in the Harris Shield Competitions which start about January 25th.

Congratulations to Pte. Stocken on his appointment as unpaid Lance Corporal. No doubt he is pleased to be back once more in the Corporals' Mess where he used to be a fairly prominent member.

Pets' Corner.

Since returning from leave we hear that Squeak has become engaged and we offer him our deepest sympathies. Pip waited outside the printers' office in Weymouth waiting to hear the result of a £1,000 Football Competition which he had entered for. He quite thought he had won but when the paper arrived found he had drawn a blank. Percy and Angeline also had hard luck on the Football Competition, Sunderland, which Angeline had given to win, letting them down. May was very surprised and sorry to read in last month's *Dragon*, of the carrying on of Wopski and Aunt Emma with the Duchess of Weymouth. She said she always thought they were nice children until then. By the way, Aunt Emma received a Calendar from Winnie at Xmas so he is very pleased with himself.

Angeline is filled with despair because Percy the Pigeon refuses to walk out with her any more because she wears spatts to keep her ankles warm these cold nights. Last Saturday Angeline went out with Long John, and after the pictures retired to "The White Hart" and spent a pleasant evening with the Old Seagull. The only trouble was that Long John had made a New Year's Resolution not to touch beer so he had whisky, but later in the evening he must have forgotten his noble resolution because he finished up by knocking back several dirty big pints. As there are several Long Johns knocking about I had better explain that the Long John referred to in these columns is none other than our gallant Coomo, Cpl. J. Coombs. No doubt our readers will remember that he is a dancer of remarkable talent and also gifted with a splendid voice. His warblings always meet with great applause. He has other talents such as a conjuror, of no mean standard. Many an evening he holds an audience spellbound with his wonderful disappearing tricks with a penny, such as swallowing it and then making it drop from his nose or ear. He is also an expert at balancing things. He thinks nothing of hurling a dry scrubber in the air and catching it on his nose and balancing it. Uncle Dick's flash bit, Hilda, has not seen him for so long that she was going to send him a bunch of flowers thinking he might be dead. Wilfred alias "Orrible Budge, was seen with the Duchess of Weymouth: evidently his leave did not do him much good.

Things we want to know.

Who was it said, "The dinner had too much canine pepper on it.
How long has Chippie Austin been a spinster?
Who represents the "Long arm of the law" and does he practice being on "point duty"?

O.S.

There are only 1 dozen Bound Volumes of the 1923 "Dragons" left.

Regimental Messes.

BY COLONEL, G. V. DAUGLISH.

I HAVE been asked if I know anything about the origin of regimental messes. As I do not and as there is no book on the subject, and also as the subject is an interesting one, I am sending a few suggestions to *The Dragon*, in the hope that someone, who is better informed, may supplement or correct them.

The Inspection Report of The Buffs for 1774 says:—"The officers eat together and live in friendship. Major Nicholson excepted." It is not clear if the Major's aloofness extended to absence from the common meal or to the lack of friendship, but probably the Report intends to attribute to him both shortcomings. At any rate a reasonable inference from the report is that there was no regular mess institution such as we have now, else the "eating together" would have been taken for granted; but that, on the other hand, the authorities approved of the principle of regimental messes and were encouraging their establishment.

But their establishment may well have been a difficulty in former days; for while some barracks had been provided in Ireland, in fortresses, and for the Guards, troops normally were billeted, and often in scattered detachments. The same difficulty may have militated against the upkeep of a permanent mess equipment; not however that individual officers always stunted themselves in regard to table service and plate. As an instance, a recent number of *Country Life* mentions how the great Duke of Marlborough, while still a young man and plain Colonel Churchill, carted about two trunks of silver for table use on one campaign.

Whether a regiment had a mess or not, perhaps depended on the station in which it happened to be quartered; in some places it being possible to run a more or less regular mess, or for the officers to dine together at some convenient hotel and having other meals in their own quarters.

A book on the subject would be welcome, and there ought to be ample materials for one. Then there is the record which the plate and property of regiments can supply; and in this connection it may be interesting to note what story the plate of our own regiment suggests, I speak from memory, but the oldest pieces of the 1st Battalion are just a few small articles, and one of these, a salver, belonged to a former 2nd Battalion raised for supplying drafts during the Peninsula War. A snuff-box, with a Dublin hall-mark, may also have belonged to the same 2nd Battalion, for the box used to bear the date 1809 (now worn away), and at that date the 1st Battalion was in the Spanish Peninsula. The handsome Sheffield Plate of the 1st Battalion is understood to date from about 1819.

All this points somewhat to there having been no permanent or extensive outfit in the 1st Battalion Mess till the quieter days succeeding the Napoleonic wars. As to the main part of the Silver plate, this was collected in the years succeeding the Crimean War, following what I believe to have been a very general custom among regiments at the time.

But I hope that someone will be able to supply more and better information, at any rate it may be claimed that the plate of a regiment constitutes in itself an interesting record of successive periods.

War Memorial Tank for sale.

The war memorial tank presented to the town of Ashford, Kent, which was placed in an open space in the centre of the town, is now regarded as a danger to traffic, and the local authority propose selling it to a dealer for £30. It will probably be broken up for the sake of the valuable engines which it contains.

8th Battalion Dinner.

BY LIEUT. G. LINDLEY, LATE 8TH BATTN. THE BUFFS.

IT is with much pleasure that I send you a list of those who have already promised to attend the 8th Battalion dinner whenever it may be held. Possibly some are hanging back, as they do not know whom they will meet there: but when they see that "Old So-and-So" is coming, I hope they may be persuaded to turn up themselves.

As this is, as far as I am aware, the first time that anyone has tried to organize a dinner for any of the service battalions, I want time to advertise a little more, in the civilian papers as well as *The Dragon*: on this account the dinner will not take place until the end of March or perhaps the beginning of April.

Seeing that there were a very large number of Londoners in the battalion, it will no doubt be preferable to hold the dinner somewhere in town and on a Saturday night. Several places have been suggested to me, and I am investigating them all to see which will offer me the best terms. As soon as definite arrangements have been made, they will be announced in *The Dragon*.

I am very glad to hear that you have some names and addresses for me sent by Mr. A. H. Charlton. I wonder if he is the same Charlton (late of D. Company) living at Gospel Oak, N.W., whose name and address I have already booked: anyway, please thank him for the trouble he must have taken: I should like a few more to do the same.

Up to the present, including those in the following list, I have now got the names and addresses of 17 officers and 40 other ranks, most of whom will, I hope, be starters. These names, as will be noticed from the name of the company given after their names, are mostly culled from B, C and D: come along A Company, don't let the others beat you! In other words please let me have a large letter-bag in response to this, the second time of asking. My address is 10 Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, Kent.

PROMISES TO ATTEND.

Pte. E. T. Atkinson, (C); Lt. L. Anderson, M.C., (C); Sergt. H. V. Aspland, (D).
 I./Cpl. W. J. Barratt, (C); Pte. E. F. Barratt, (C); Pte. W. Brooks, (C); Pte. P. Beavis, (D); Q.M.S. Bonnell, (B).
 Pte. C. Charlton, (D); Capt. C. H. Cardozo, (C); Lt. C. L. Carter, (B); 2/Lt. R. B. Carrow, (B); Pte. Cox, (C); Pte. S. Cottle, (D); I./Cpl. F. R. Cox, (B).
 Sergt. A. F. Dawson, (B); Pte. W. Dilmitt, (C).
 Cpl. Emery, (C).
 Sergt. Holding, (C); Maj. A. G. Hamilton, (B); Capt. J. V. Hitchcock, (C); Pte. T. Heath, (C); Cpl. F. Howard, (B).
 Staff-Sergt. W. Innes, (D).
 Q.M.S. E. Leonard, (B); Sergt. Lockyer.
 Pte. G. Mills, (A).
 Capt. T. S. Overy, (D).
 Pte. F. Payne, (C).
 Sergt. S. Robinson, (B).
 Pte. E. Smith, (C); Capt. G. I. Samuelson, (D); Pte. Stockholm, (C); Cpl. J. G. Scott, (B); Pte. H. Simner, (C).
 Pte. Trevelyan, (D).
 Maj. J. Vaughan, M.C., (C); Lt. S. Vaughan, (D).
 Pte. R. Wade, (C); Sergt. Wittering, (D); Sergt. I. White, (C); Sergt. M. Wackrill, (C); Cpl. Walker, (B); Pte. W. Wilkin, (D).

[On page 62 will be found a letter referring to the above. Ed.]

Widows' Pensions.

Important Concessions.

THE Minister of Pensions announces a further decision of the Government in respect of claims to pension by widows of men disabled in the Great War who die more than seven years after discharge or removal from duty.

The important changes announced a year ago have already resulted, in practice, in the grant of pensions on a greatly improved scale, in a large number of cases to the widows of men who had died of attributable or aggravated disabilities after the period of seven years laid down in Article II., of the Royal Warrant had expired. The provisions under which these awards were made were, however, on a discretionary basis, and in the course of the Debate last June on the Ministry Pensions Vote, the view was expressed that they should be formally embodied in the Warrant itself.

The administrative questions involved have been investigated by the Minister in consultation with the Central Advisory Committee (comprising officers of the Ministry, ex-service men, representatives of War Pension Committees and Members of Parliament of all parties) and with the Headquarters of the British Legion, and he was able to formulate to the Government in October last the outlines of the settlement which has now been arrived at.

The steps decided upon are as follows:—

1. A new Article will be inserted in the Royal Warrant providing, without any time limit whatsoever, for the grant of pension at Article II., (that is maximum) rates to the widow of any pensioner whose death is certified to be wholly due to the nature or condition of his pensioned disability, such nature or condition being directly the result of his war service. The formula will cover cases of serious aggravation of a disability not directly due to war service.

2. In regard to claims made under the new Article and rejected by the Ministry of Pensions, there will be a right of appeal to the Pensions Appeal Tribunal.

3. Other cases occurring beyond the seven years' limit in which the man's death, though not wholly and directly the result of war service, was nevertheless so far connected with it as to justify some measure of compensation, will be considered as heretofore under Article 17 of the Warrant as amended a year ago, and subject to a further concession which has now been authorised. Eligibility for pension under that Article is governed by the extent to which the man was recognised during his lifetime to be disabled by war service, but the minimum limit of 50 per cent which was laid down is now to be reduced to 40 per cent.

PERSONALIA

We would like you to

SHORT SKETCHES

help us develop these features

REMINISCENCES

Across the Channel.

From our Correspondent in Paris.

THANK goodness that Christmas and the New Year are over. Your correspondent is not a kill-joy or a prohibitionist, but as he lives near the river, the floods have rather affected his moral. At this season, when one really needs a bank, it closes for about ten days. One runs short of money and it is impossible to borrow from one's friends as they are in the same boat. January 1st means club subscriptions, a charity or two. It is the time that one is inclined to look into personal accounts and make quite certain of what one has long suspected, that expenditure has exceeded income. The flood does not exactly bring "goodwill towards all men." Electric light is cut off and very often the water supply. If one's flat is on the ground floor and the cellars are flooded, the rats move one floor up.

Then there is the ring at the front door at 7.30 a.m. Has the "femme di menage" lost her key? Out of bed—central heating out of order—open the door—postman—obviously a registered letter containing £20 from one's maiden aunt—no—"Monsieur, I have the honour to present you with a calendar"—what delightful postal officials—not a bit of it—he won't go away without a Christmas box—he gets it—go back to bed—another ring—another postman—another calendar—"Thanks awfully, one of your colleagues has already very kindly given me one"—"Ah! but I'm the postman that brings the mid-day letters—another Christmas box. And so it goes on, visits are received from the evening postman, the trade-circular postman and the telegraph boy. I will not bother you with the wiles of the butcher's and baker's boy, but will add that the concierge is the wildest, the craftiest and the most expensive of the lot.

The only people who really seem to enjoy the floods are amateur fishermen. In normal times one sees a fair sprinkling of these piscatorial enthusiasts along the river banks in Paris, but floods cause their numbers to be multiplied tenfold. The cause of this galaxy can, no doubt, be traced to the habits of fish. Is it that they prefer town life at flood-time?

Theatreland has been very busy: sundry new plays have been provided for the public. Amongst them "J'ai une idee" at the Marigny, which is the French version of "Tons of money," is proving a great success. Max Dearly takes the leading part and is at his best. He is an amazing mixture of Leslie Henson and George Graves. Some of the English humour in the play is, however, completely lost on the French audience, not that the latter lack humour, but they seem only capable of appreciating their own particular kind.

Jane Renouardt has produced a new Musical Comedy at the Daunou entitled "Madame," which has several catchy tunes and a plot so intricate that it is difficult to follow and therefore impossible to describe, but suffice it is to say that one scene depicts one party of young people staying at a Swiss hotel for the winter sports chaperoned by an old lady. Sport, however, continues (or perhaps it would be more accurate to say begins) after the chaperone has retired to bed. After seeing a play at the Daunou one can go up another floor and find oneself in one of the best "Dancings" in Paris. The ownership of this place is not unconnected with an ex-Buff and if selling champagne worth 15 to 20 francs a bottle at 100 produces a profit, the owner should not be losing money. What about touching him for an advertisement for *The Dragon*, Mr. Editor?

Short articles, sketches, and drawings are always acceptable for "The Dragon."

Promotion from the Ranks.

NEW regulations governing promotion from the ranks to combatant commissions as second lieutenants have been issued as an Army Order. For the present, candidates will be granted commissions only in the Cavalry, Corps of Signals, Tank Corps, and Army Service Corps; but no candidate will be recommended unless he has been employed in a capacity where he has shown power of leadership.

Candidates will now be required to undergo a course of training of about eighteen months' duration at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and to obtain a satisfactory report therefrom. The dates of admission to the College will be in February and September of each year, and the number of candidates admitted each half year will vary according to the requirements of the Service. There will be 15 vacancies for the first course under the new regulations commencing in September, 1924.

To be eligible for recommendation by his C.O. a candidate must (1) be medically fit; (2) be in possession of an Army First Class Certificate of Education, unless he is exempt from obtaining such a Certificate; (3) be at least an unpaid lance-corporal and have held that appointment for six months prior to 1st January or 1st July, as the case may be, of the year in which he is recommended; (4) be under 23 years of age on 1st January for admission in the following September, and 1st July for admission in the following February; and (5) have at least two years' unexpired colour service or be prepared to extend his service with the colours for such period as will leave him with two years' unexpired colour service.

Candidates from the ranks admitted to Sandhurst will be allowed the necessary military outfit and other specified emoluments and, on being commissioned, an outfit allowance of £100 subject to a deduction of the value of the available cadet outfit, estimated at £14.

Education in the Army.

The latest examination for the First Class Army Certificate of Education showed a marked advance in the number of candidates and of the certificates gained. 1,360 candidates were examined and of these no fewer than 54% qualified for the full certificate, as compared with 38% in April, 1923, and 14% in 1922. In addition, 15% passed in all, but one of the subjects. The examination embraces English (including authors such as Kinglake and Dickens), Geography, Mathematics and Map reading; and under the new regulations a candidate who fails in any one subject is allowed to take this subject only in a subsequent examination, provided he has reached a good aggregate of marks.

The growing popularity of the First Class Certificate is a significant response to the stimulus provided by the Army Education Scheme, and may be regarded as indicating an increased sense on the part of the candidates of the value of education in relation to military efficiency. At the same time, the Certificate has a special value inasmuch as it now satisfies one of the primary conditions on which men in the ranks are recommended for admission to Sandhurst with a view to obtaining combatant commissions.

How to get "The Dragon."

FOR those wishing to receive the paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—

1 year 8/-, 6 months 4/-, 3 months 2/-.

Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

Thomas Hardy and Portland.

A DESCRIPTION of Old Portland by Dorset's "most distinguished living son will be read with interest. The following extracts are taken from the novel, *The Well-Beloved*.

Hardy describes Portland as "the peninsula carved by Time out of a single stone, which has been for centuries immemorial the home of a curious and well-nigh distinct people, cherishing strange beliefs and strange customs, now for the most part obsolescent." "The rocky coign of England overlooking the great Channel Highway with all its suggestiveness, and standing so far into mid-sea, that touches of the Golf Stream soften the air till February." "The whole Island is a solid and single block of limestone four miles long; its walls of oolite are infinitely stratified."

Other shorter descriptions are "the lonely rock," "the towering rock," "the stern isolated rock in the Channel, said once to have been the ancient Vindilia Island, and the home of the Slingers." "A peculiar island." "The hoary peninsula, called an island," "the Channel rock." "From Weymouth the Island lies like a great snail upon the sea across the bay."

THE VERNE CITADEL.—"The massive forehead of the Isle, crested with its enormous ramparts as with a mural crown." "The grim, wrinkled forehead of Portland." "The green grey mountain of grassy stone levelled at the top by military art." "Its drawbridge over the chasm surrounding the forts." "The steep Verne Hill road—a new, rigid, mathematical road, long, white, regular, tapering to a vanishing point like a lesson in perspective."

THE BEAL.—"The southern portion of the island called by strangers the Bill." "The beaked promontory." "The great placid eye of the lighthouse at the Beal Point."

FORTUNE'S WELL.—"The old Roman highway into the peninsula." "The underhill townlet." "The sea-skirted townlet definable as the Street of Wells forming a pass into that Gibraltar of Wessex, the singular peninsula once an island, and still called such, that stretches out like the head of a bird into the English Channel." "The houses above houses, one man's doorstep rising behind his neighbour's chimney, the gardens hung up by one edge to the sky, the vegetables growing on apparently almost vertical planes." "The long straight Roman street; the old natural fountains." "There are evidences that the Roman colonists had been populous and long-abiding in and near this corner of Britain. Tradition urged that a Temple to Venus once stood at the top of the Roman road leading up into the isle; and possibly one to the love-goddess of the Slingers antedated this."

CHESTNUT BEACH AND WEST BAY.—"A long thin neck of pebbles cast up by the rages of the sea, and unparalleled in its kind in Europe." "Pebble Beach."

"At periods of a quarter of a minute there arose a deep, hollow stroke like the single beat of a drum, the interval being filled with a long-drawn rattling, as of bones between large canine jaws. It came from the vast concave of that sinister bay—Deadman's Bay—rising and falling against the pebble dyke—the huge composite ghost of the human multitude lying below; those who had gone down in vessels of war, East Indiamen, barges, brigs, and ships of the Armada—select people, common and debased, whose interests and hopes had been as wide asunder as the poles, but who had rolled each other to oneness on that restless sea-bed."

There are other references to Portland in Hardy's Weymouth-novel, *The Trumpet Major*; but *The Well-Beloved* is his Portland-novel *par excellence*. H.P.



Portland (Underhill) a century ago.

“Bolshevism.”

BY ERIC C. FRENCH.

BOLSHEVISM, the encyclopaedia tells us, is “a term adopted on the analogy of socialism and anarchism, to express the views and government of the party called Bolsheviki in Russia.” It goes on to explain that the word is derived from an element or root meaning ‘great’—bol’shi-i, greater; bol’she, more; bol’shinstvo, majority. The Bolsheviki constitute one of the three branches—social democrats, social revolutionaries, and extremists (Bolsheviki)—which arose out of the old socialist party, and are so called because at one of the socialist conferences, held about 1905, they were in the majority.

On the sudden abdication of the Tsar Nicholas II., in March, 1917, Kerensky formed a provisional government; and later the Russian Republic with himself as President and Commander of the Forces. His personality was too weak, his government too vacillating to allow of his ideal of a united Russia ever accomplishing itself. The Bolshevik party were too strong for him. Trotsky denounced the government, and on November 8th “he and Lenin carried out a coup d’etat.” Kerensky fled and eventually escaped from Russia.

Under the despotic rule of the Tsar and his nobility, backed by the forces of the military, the people had, for centuries, been ground down beneath a heavy system of taxation. Secret societies, having for their object the betterment of the conditions of the working class, had sprung up everywhere. Most of these societies embraced some one or other of the doctrines of the socialist writers. Their propoganda was in the mouth of many emissaries, and the heart of Imperial Russia was eaten by this canker.

Russia is a vast country, and by nature of its vastness, but thinly populated in parts. Primitive in the extreme is the life led by the people in these out-of-the-way spots. The doings of the outside world reach them, but as rumours, brought by occasional travellers, wandering pedlars, or their sons returned from a term or military service. They are immensely ignorant, intensely superstitious, approximating closely to the serfs of the middle-ages. Wretchedly poor, at the mercy of exploitation by their feudal lords; any change would appear a change for the better, that had for its object the enriching of the worker at the expense of the capitalist.

In the towns a well organised spy system kept the government informed of any movement on the part of the people to better their conditions. Such a movement was suppressed with brutal rigour; indefinite imprisonment, transportation, even death were common punishments for daring to think and to express those thoughts.

It is hardly surprising, then, that the masses, relieved from this oppression by the abdication of the Tsar and the weakness of the provisional government, should have so readily listened to the tempting proposition that they should fill their empty pockets from the overflowing ones of the rich.

There is little doubt that bolshevism grew out of the political suppression under Russian Bureaucracy.

Under so absolute a despotism, the classes in the community are sharply divided. Either a man belongs to the working class or to the aristocracy; there is no middle-class as we in England know it. Now the middle-class is the great buttress against which the tide of revolution beats and is driven back. In the case of the Russian revolution no such buttress existed. The only other deterring factor is the standing army, upon whose loyalty the despots rely. The army of Russia was away fighting in the cause of the Allies, such of them as remained at home, deprived of the figure-head of despotism, the Tsar, and sapped from within

by the dissemination of socialist propoganda, went over to the Bolsheviks.

Almost without a struggle the Bolsheviks came into power.

The Bolshevik government, formed in Petrograd and Moscow, put forward as their programme, the establishment of an immediate peace with Germany; the overthrowing of the forces of capital, and the giving of political power to the people.

Peace with Germany was concluded by Trotsky, at Brest-Litovsk, in February, 1918.

The Bolshevik policy was dictated by the principles of Karl Marx, who advocated the destruction of the capitalistic regime, the confiscation of all means of production, the placing of all power in the hands of the workers, and the establishment of a state of communism; the community run by and in the interests of the workers. Lenin carried these principles one step further, by stating that terrorism was necessary to carry out the programme. The masses were enlisted to fight under the banner of ‘freedom and equality’ as constituted by the Red Army.

Now began a campaign of frightfulness which has no parallel in the history of the ages. The aristocracy, the capitalist; men, women, and children who might be supposed to have the least sympathy with the old order, were thrown into overcrowded prisons and leisurely murdered under the most revolting circumstances. A frantic orgy of killing for the mere lust of blood swept the country from end to end. Foul obscenities, revolting massacres were daily happenings; even the revolutionaries themselves were not safe; life, property, all that a man holds most dear, were sacrificed at the breath of suspicion.

The Banks were nationalized to prevent capitalist intervention and the country was flooded with paper money. The Church was separated from the State; the schools and Bolshevik literature spared no pains to inculcate their doctrines into even the youngest minds. Wives and daughters given over to the violence of the rabble soldiery, the mouths of little children filled with blasphemies against God; starvation, confiscation, and the destruction of the land-marks of the State—this was what Bolshevism had brought to the people of Russia.

The Red Army were used for a time to sieze the food from the peasants to safeguard the population of Bolshevik Russia from starvation. The peasants retaliated by an attitude of passivity, producing only just enough for their own simple needs. The Allied blockade prevented any food being imported into the country, with the result that famine was added to the other terrors.

Thus, in attempting to save the people from a despotic government, the Bolsheviks created a chaos far and more terrible than the people, in their wildest nightmares, ever dreamed of. Undoubtedly, some form of constitutional government must arise from this welter of madness, otherwise Russia will continue to find herself isolated and without markets for her goods, or the means of obtaining the necessities with which foreign countries alone can supply her.

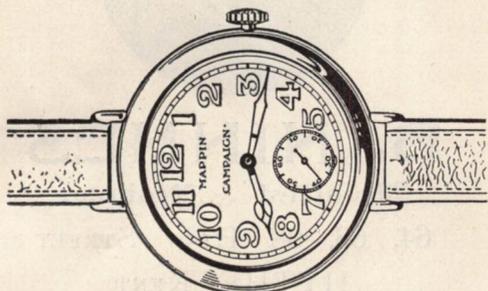
In the meantime the danger of her highly efficient and wide-spread foreign propoganda must not be overlooked; already it has spread to Western Europe, the British Dominions and America. The unrest among the workers in our own country is certainly, in part, due to this.

Bolshevism is a menace that, at all costs, must be stamped out.

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Exercise.

EXERCISE may be considered one of the bed-rocks of health. It is absolutely essential because nature requires that each and all, shall keep their bodies in good condition.

It is only natural that there should exist a craving for exercise. The day we were born we no doubt cried to exercise our lungs: later, we tried to walk: as we got older we loved the school games. Why? because nature was seeing that our health was maintained at a period of our lives, when we were too young to appreciate and understand the necessity of exercise.

Like most things, exercise must be taken with discretion, and violent or injudicious exercises avoided. The man who spends an hour each morning and evening, using a pair of seven pound dumb bells, and persists in asking everyone to feel the muscles of his arm, can, as a rule, be blown off his feet by the breadth of an average sized drummer boy. In other words, he has no stomach: he gives more consideration to the development of one or two muscles, than he does to the strengthening of his body as a whole. This can only be obtained by a careful system of training, such as the Swedish system gives.

Games, generally speaking, only train certain muscles and should be supplemented by other exercises. It is difficult to say which games are best, as this is essentially a matter of individual taste, but most soldiers know something about Cricket and Football. A soldier who thinks more about getting his eye down, than he does about playing games, ought to be put on permanent grass picking, or better still, made to pull the big roller up and down the sports ground.

Are we as a nation falling away in sport? Why do we, as a nation, possess so many C 3 men? These are questions requiring careful answers. To those of us who have given practically all our lives to military service, can find no difficulty in answering these questions. There is not the slightest doubt that sport, another term for exercise, is not indulged in by the civilian element as it formally was. It is estimated that only about one per cent of the young manhood of this country take part in beneficial games, the other ninety-nine per cent prefer to watch the game or take no interest at all.

Come with me to a Boxing contest and picture the scene: here are two boxers going the pace, whilst several hundreds are watching and yelling all the time "Go on Bill—shove it on 'im—that's the stuff." Again let us visit a football match, and we find the same type of thing: twenty-two players with a referee, yelled at by an idle crowd of from eight to perhaps eighty thousand. Another factor causing the decline in active sport or exercise, is the fact that it has fallen off its high pedestal of purity, to the degradation of commercialism and a business controlled by bookmakers.

It certainly seems strange that we, as a nation, introduced our national pastimes into other lands, yet we are now beaten in those very games by foreigners. The sporting instincts of the civilian have declined in proportion to the increase attained by the soldier. That is why we are mostly a C 3 nation possessing an A 1 Army.

The Duke of Wellington once said that "the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." He obviously meant to convey the fact, that the games fostered by the Public Schools of those days, not only made healthy soldiers, but gave that spirit of self-determination and confidence essential for leadership, and instilled into the hearts and minds of all, the principles of discipline. Shall we be ever able to say, that future battles will be won on the playing fields of the Elementary Schools of this Country?

Every soldier should take the greatest personal interest in active sport. Don't look on or watch others—play yourselves. Make your company the best in the army: games inculcate that esprit de corps which makes a man feel above himself: a sort of feeling that would make one go through Hell itself, in order to save the old colours of the regiment, bound with three hundred years of glorious tradition and association, from being tarnished. Have that magnificent feeling, and who will deny you have not also health.

The days of skittles and shove halfpenny are of the past. No longer do we wet our whistles out of a gallon can. We are healthy soldiers of a great nation, and by our example shall rescue her from the stigma of C3 and bring back the cherished ideals she so proudly possessed of being A1 and the protagonist of sport amongst the nations of the world.

J. E.

Migration to Australia.

WE are informed that the Governments of Great Britain and Australia have formulated a scheme whereby the whole of the money required for migration to Australia is loaned to intending migrants and their families. The loans are repayable by an almost nominal sum weekly. The class of workpeople required are able-bodied men and boys willing to do agricultural work and women and girls as domestic lady helps. Employment is guaranteed on arrival to such people, and where a man proves his worth as a settler a grant of 160 acres of land and financial backing up to £1,000 is provided. The Government also, not only assist in cultivation by the hire of agricultural machinery, but undertake the harvesting and the disposal of the produce at current market rates. There are wonderful prospects for a man with initiative, who is not afraid of hard work. It would appear that the primary object of the scheme is to keep Australia thoroughly British. Full particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Employment Exchanges at Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and Faversham.

Vocational Training in the Army.

SINCE Vocational Training became a definite feature in Army Administration eight months ago, 500 soldiers have been admitted to the Training Centres of Hounslow and Catterick, and it is anticipated that by the end of March next, this number will have risen to 700. The men selected are those who have obtained a Second Class Certificate of Education and are within six months of the termination of the Colour service. Intensive courses of training in a variety of trades and occupations are provided for them with a view to increasing their chances of employment on leaving the Army.

Vocational Training of a more limited character is given in garrison and area command classes for the benefit of men who have not attained the standard of admission to Hounslow and Catterick, but the ultimate object is the same; to make the man who has been a good soldier an efficient citizen. In all cases where men have not secured civil employment within one month of the date they are due to leave the Colours information as to their qualifications will be sent to officers' commanding their units, to Old Comrades' Association, the local branches of the National Association in the district in which they intend to settle, and to any other agency which the Army Council considers will further their chances of securing civil employment.

Some Reminiscences (Continued).

BY COLONEL R. S. H. MOODY, C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

DURING our stay in Natal, parts of The Old Colony, as The Cape was called, were troubled with small native wars and disturbances. The worthy Kaffirs being led by a distinguished dusky warrior named Kreli, not too easy to subdue, so that the 13th L.I., the 24th and 90th were kept pretty busy. On our side the martial Zulus were threatening the Transvaal, then in so poor a way as to be unable to defend itself, rendering it necessary, in 1877, for the English to annex the country in order to defend its people and so the Buffs and 80th were kept in Pietermaritzburg as a check on Cetewayo the Zulu monarch.

I think it was in April, 1878, that an appeal for help arrived in our garrison from the town of Kokstadt in Griqualand. The Griquas were a bastard race, half Boer, half Hottentot, who, under one Adam Kok, had started a state of their own between the Old Colony and Natal and now, fired with emulation by the deeds of Kreli, had attacked the white residents and were besieging them in a laager at Kokstadt. The enemy was not a very formidable one, and three Companies of The Buffs were reckoned sufficient to deal with the situation: therefore, A, B, and C, each made up to 100 men, were despatched with all haste under Parnell, now Brevet Lieut.-Colonel (under the old promotion scheme). Joe Harrison, with Gleeson as Colour-Sergeant had A Company, Wild had B with C-Sergt. Meredith and Bob Forster, with Derby as his flag, commanded C. The subalterns were Martin, Hughes and Middleton. I, explaining the importance of the adjutant being with so great a detachment, went also, adding the Quarter-Masters' duties to my own.

We marched the morning after getting the appeal, and were accompanied by swarms of friends as far as Willow Drift where everybody turned back. I was amused here by an example of what might be termed undemonstrative affection. Private Mannix was for war and Mrs. Mannix silently fell into step with him and in perfect silence, marched by his side the two miles or so to the drift. Then the parting came. "Ugh" said Mrs. Mannix. "Ugh, old girl," replied her mate and that was all. Some months later, I was at the same drift watching Mannix's Company return and Mrs. Mannix was there too. She picked out her man in a moment and fell in beside him. "Ugh" she remarked and "Ugh, old girl" said Mannix and they silently marched to their home. By comparison Mannix was a bit of a chatterbox.

The distance from Pietermaritzburg to Kokstadt is about 140 miles, and the river Umzinkulu was the boundary between Natal and Griqualand. The detachment marched as light as possible, with only three ox-waggon. The only rations were bully beef and biscuits and blankets were very few. Everything went well enough for the first three days and we were approaching the Umzinkulu, when a horseman dashed up to Parnell and reported that the garrison was in a very tight place and that the magazine had blown up.

Then work began in earnest. Parnell pushed on resolutely by day and night, with very inadequate intervals for rest and for grazing the oxen. In fact towards the end, these became almost useless and men with drag ropes were constantly hauling the waggons.

Ascending the first Grigua hill at night time we suffered an accident which deprived us of one of our show Buff privates. Mills was a very fine, smart fellow, generally employed as C.O.'s Orderly. He was in charge of one of the waggons when the trek-tow, or hide rope to which the oxen are attached, snapped at the strain it was put to and the great waggon skidded backwards catching Mills on the side. The poor fellow passed the rest of the night in agony on his waggon, imploring to be set down to die and he expired at daylight.

The march, after we entered Griqualand, was done with all military precautions, the company officers' mounted, being employed as scouts, but we were not interfered with till we crowned the hill overlooking our objective. There, we saw a good many cattle and horses, but the anti-climax of all our labour was that immediately our red coats were seen coming over the hill the rebels fled with rapidity, decidedly refusing a contest. We had nothing to do but round up the animals which we found under charge of the women. These were almost all handed to Government, but there were exceptions. The men found a red lamb with a distinct Buff coloured mark like a collar round his neck so he was annexed, christened No. 301 Billy, and lived for a considerable time with the battalion, enjoying as a diet, much paper and foul bowls of broken clay pipes. He died at Singapore after a heavy meal of important orderly room documents and there were not wanting sinister hints that the adjutant knew more of the cause of death than he cared to say. The rest of our expedition was pain and grief. Camped high on the slopes of Mount Currey, as the winter advanced, we suffered much from cold and wild storms.

"Now I know why those Classical Johnnies called this wind Rude Boreas" remarked Hughes as the tail of his shirt was blown over his head while hammering in his tent pegs one terrible night.

About July, things brightened up by the passing of Colonel Wood's column with the 90th, some artillery and others from the Old Colony which was now quiet again. These men were trekking for Natal to be in readiness for what everyone now foresaw, namely an early campaign against the well-trained and warlike Zulus.

I was sent back alone to Pietermaritzburg about this time and later, the companies treked back, one by one, so that the five got together again, entertained by persistent rumours of the early return of the Mauritius detachment.

Troops were now crowding into the Natal capital and our mess became almost a garrison one, though run by The Buffs. One artillery major, before Parnell's return from Kokstadt, made perhaps a little too free with the establishment. He was a thirsty hero and somewhat given to repose after dinner. One night he was snoring on the sofa when we were all ready for bed, so we left him there, extinguishing the lights and telling Sergt. Bond that we had done so, and that he could go to bed. Next day that N.C.O. informed us that just before dawn he was roused by a noise in the ante-room so, going in, he was greeted by groans and a voice saying "Where am I? Where am I? Am I in Hell?"

"No Sir," replied Bond, "You are in The Buff's Mess," "Thank God!" was the pious rejoinder. Then bring me a brandy and soda."

Brown Hair.

BBROWN Hair, wind-tossed by rough October gales!
To give you matchless glory Autumn sent
The purple-red and every shade of brown;
You gathered them and gave imprisonment;
As sentinel to guard you took my heart,
When I met you in th' hopping fields of Kent.

Sun-kissed Brown Hair! I loved in Kent's fair fields,
Where now? In what dull city's slum art pent?
Is all thy glory dimmed that Autumn gave
By sullen shadows dark, malevolent?
Again when Autumn tints the golden hops
Bring back my heart to me in lovely Kent!

EDWARD H. DIXON.

ROUND ABOUT



BY
THE TRAMP

THE DECLINING PROSPECT. I suppose it is inevitable that when the year has aged by a month, the rosy optimism of the thirty-first of last December should find its proper level. Anyway, as I write, and on a rainy Monday morning, too, I read depressing forecasts of a railway strike. The political situation which develops this week is not one to justify much renewal of that glad looking forward which characterised many of us while the punch bowl was going its round so short a time ago.

READY-MADE PHILOSOPHY. And yet even though an Income Tax demand lies on the table and that expected increase in salary is long overdue, there is just this way of looking at it all. One has only to look back at mid-Januaries of the past—take those of 1915, 1916 and 1918—to find consolation in the fact that light is in the habit of succeeding gloom, or *ca passe*, as I vaguely believe the French have it.

THE CITY CHURCHES. Londoners are notoriously apathetic where their great public institutions are concerned. Provincials invariably can tell the cockney more about his Tower of London, National Gallery and so on, than ever he knew. That is just in the nature of things. To remedy this stigma in a small degree I have just lately been gulping down my lunch and doing a bit of the City afterwards. The talk of the demolition of nineteen City churches led me, ere it was too late, to go and see what manner of places were soon to come under the ruthless housebreakers-hammers. I have seen some ten churches now, and the pity of the decision to pull them down is only too apparent. Sir Christopher Wren, the man who made English Architecture respected throughout the civilised world, was responsible for their design and even the grandeur of St. Paul's Cathedral—his *magnum opus*—seems to pale in comparison with these exquisitely designed architectural gems. Grinling Gibbons designed the interior carving in many of them, and each one contains a beautiful screen or pulpit from that master hand.

THEIR FATE. The decision to pull down nineteen of these churches has been made after considerable thought and discussion and is, I understand, irrevocable.

This is no place to enter into the controversy that still smoulders around it. But one would have thought that in a great and wealthy city such as London, there would have been forthcoming men ready to support any project for the retention of these unique monuments. It is true that the Sabbath congregation is small, but that is not the point. In a place where "efficient" structures in the American manner are daily rising, steel-guided, to the skies, a bit here and there of Wren's old London is a relief and an object lesson.

A STORY BY QUEX. The entertaining Diarist of the *Evening News* had a good story the other day about a city church at which a distinguished Canon had been invited to preach. The dignitary had been told that the service was quite

perfunctory and that seldom the congregation amounted to more than one soul. So he took a cab and went down to draw his guinea. While robing in the vestry, the Verger approached the Canon and said that he was afraid that it would be necessary to hold the complete service as the congregation numbered one after all. The Canon asked whether the "congregation" desired the sermon. The Verger went to enquire and returned, saying that the "congregation" did require the sermon. So the service was conducted to the end. Afterwards, the Canon enquired of the Verger who the ardent parishioner was. "Oh," replied the Verger, he's not a parishioner, he's your cabman, sir."

DEAN WACE. No doubt in its proper place in the columns of *The Dragon*, due tribute will be made to the late Dean of Canterbury, but as one who humbly and from a distance often observed and listened to that distinguished and virile churchman, I may be allowed to add something. My first recollections of Dr. Wace go back to when I was a frightened new-boy at King's School. Of all those who preached to us in the cathedral, his was the personality which was most powerful and picturesque. I can remember, now, a sermon he preached on some occasion of National import, the memorial service to King Edward VII. I believe, and his words then, simple, dignified and rousing, delivered in that gruff straightforward way of his, went right home to us careless and ordinarily easily bored schoolboys. He was to us, the embodiment of England, although he was inflexible on the question of shortening the Sunday morning cathedral service of more than two hour's duration.

There is one other and more recent occasion which comes to my mind and that was when he dined with the Officers at the Depot in 1921. I can think of no more entertaining mess-guest than Dr. Wace. He regaled us with anecdotes of Dizzy and other lions of the past, with a merry twinkle in his eye. You would never have said of him that he was in his "anecdoteage."

He was a good friend of the Regiment, as was shown by the fact that he accepted with such evident pleasure the recent invitation to become Honorary Chaplain to the Regimental Association.

There is a story that he had wanted to be a soldier. What a General he would have made!

A DINNER AND A SURMISE. It has always been customary to celebrate occasions and common experiences, whether pleasant or unpleasant, on some sort of banquet, but that held in January, 1924, at the House of Commons must "take the biscuit." It was a dinner of those members of the House of Commons who had suffered imprisonment for "Political or religious" offences and a cheery evening I'll warrant they had.

Shall we shortly find Mr. William Sikes, late of the New Cut and Dartmoor, entertaining all those intimates of his, who have qualified by indulgence in larceny, bucket shop-keeping, assault and other causes of association with the law, at a dinner, at say, the Old Bailey? No doubt the members of the Bar Mess there, would be delighted to put their Mess-room at the disposal of their old clients.

Pick of the Basket.

REGIMENTAL TIE.

Dear Editor,

Last week I saw exhibited in a shop window in the Strand a regimental tie, marked "The Buffs" Club—a black tie with a white zig-zag. I asked the man in the shop, what tie it was and he said "The Buffs" Athletic Club as apart from the Regimental tie of blue and buff.

I wonder if this can be a properly recognised tie! Yours sincerely,
St. James' Street, H. F. SPARROW,
S.W. Lt.-Col.

[This is not a recognized tie, nor do we know of The Buffs' Athletic Club. Regimental ties approved by the Regimental Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, The Past and Present Association at the price of 4/-, postage 2d. Ed.]

8TH BATTALION DINNER.

Dear Sir,

In the January Number of *The Dragon* you published a letter from Lt. Lindlay, relating to a Dinner for men of the 8th Battalion, and I thought that the following names and addresses of 8th Battalion men might be of interest. We have heard of these since a dinner was first suggested:—

Mr. Asplan, 4 Montpelier St., Knightsbridge; Mr. Lawson, 290 Kingsland Rd., E.8; Mr. Holding (Sgt.), 240 Stanstead Rd., Forest Hill; Mr. E. Atkinson, 11 Rosedale Rd., Forest Gate; Mr. L. White, Roseheath, Union Road, Deal; Mr. P. Beevers, 71 Draycott Avenue, Chelsea; Mr. H. Horsley, 77 Hemingford Rd., Caledonian Rd., N.; Mr. Dillnott, 35 Canonbury Rd., N.; Mr. Robinson, 16 Seaton St., Canonbury; Mr. Chapman (C.S.M.), 18 Cambridge Rd., Hammer-smith; Mr. Wittering (C.Q.M.S.), is at Grindlay's Bank, Parliament St.; McInnes (C.S.M.) is in the Corps of Commissionaires; Mr. Clark (L-Sgt.), Crowhurst and "Maud" Allen are, I understand doing well.

I believe that nearly all of these were pretty well knocked about during the War.

138 Allcroft Rd., Yours truly,
Gospel Oak, London, A. H. CHARLTON,
N.W. 5.

AN INTERESTING TROPHY.

Sir,

Having read in *The Chatham News* of *The Dragon*, the Regimental paper of The Buffs, I am writing to ask if I might have one sent to me? A few years ago, we always had *The Dragon* sent to us and were very much interested in it, and always looked forward to having it.

My Brother, late Lance-Sergt. Cyril Boorman was in the 1st Battalion of The Buffs, and he loved it. He was stationed in India eleven years, but died in Poona Hospital shortly before the Battalion came home in 1903.

He went through the Chitral Campaign and was wounded and recovered. He always said that it was his Canteen which saved his life on that occasion.

He prized it very much and when he died it was sent home to us with his Medal and they are our two dearest treasures.

It is interesting, as there are the two holes right through. People that see it are always interested, and I thought as news was asked of any Past and Present Buffs, that the Canteen might be of some interest to the readers of *The Dragon*.

We have it in a glass case, which my Father made for it, and the Medal is fastened to it, and on top is the green Dragon in a small frame, and we also have the Buffs' Memorial framed, with the names of the poor

fellows who were killed in the Chitral war, and my brother's photos above it. So altogether it makes a nice interesting picture and we call it our little shrine.
83 New Road,
Chatham, Kent.
Yours respectfully,
E. BOORMAN.

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE.

Dear Sir,

I wish through *The Dragon* to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Col. and Mrs. Buttanshaw for their kindly thought again this Christmas: also for the kind attention they have given to my husband since his illness.

The Hut, Yours truly,
Sandling West, B. F. HANAGHAN,
Nr. Hythe, Kent.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

Dear Sir,

In reference to the letter of O. Stocken of H.Q. Wing, 2nd Battn., in January's *Dragon* remarking on the absence of the Rank and File at the Annual Dinner, I attended the Dinner for the first time and expected to see some of my old pals but except for the Band the only persons that I knew were the Brothers "Port," one of whom was Corporal and the other Lieut. in A Company, 2nd Battalion, during the war.

O. Stocken mentions that he never saw any of the old Second Battalion at the dinner. I don't know how many years he calls old, as I was a Private of the 2nd Battalion from 1915 until 1919 and attended the dinner. Your Correspondent also thinks it would be better to hold the Annual Dinner at Canterbury; no doubt this would bring you a larger number of Members or should do, as the Regiment is a Kentish one, but one could not expect Londoners to pay the fare to Canterbury to attend the Dinner and again to attend the Cricket Week. And again, if the Dinner was held at Canterbury another day would have to be lost for the Memorial at the Cenotaph, which must take place in London. It would be a good thing if the Dinner took place during Cricket week as Londoners would turn up in larger numbers to the Depot week than they did last year. I may be mistaken, but I think that there was the large amount of five of us. Wishing the Regiment and *The Dragon* every success,

I remain,
174 Walmer Road, Yours sincerely,
Notting Hill, 6278475 A. MORGAN,
London, W. Late 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Bns.

Military Voters.

It is stated officially that the Spring Register, 1924, for England and Wales and Scotland, which is about to be prepared will come into force on 15th April, 1924. The qualifying period ends on 15th December, 1923. The basis of the new Register and Absent Voters Lists, so far as Military Voters are concerned, will be similar to that adopted for the preparation of the Autumn Register, 1923. This involves the retention on the present Register and Absent Voters Lists of the names of such persons as remain qualified, and the provision of facilities for all officers and soldiers who are not on the present Register and Lists to secure the investigation of their claims with a view to their names being placed on the new Register and Lists.

HOW TO REGISTER.

Any officer or soldier whose name is not on the present Registers and Absent Voters Lists, and who having attained the age of 21 years on or before the 15th December, 1923, had joined the Army before that date, should, if he is able to furnish a qualifying address in Great Britain and considers himself thereby entitled to be represented, immediately notify that address to the Registration Officer of the constituency in which the address is, forwarding his communication, if he is a soldier through the Officer i/c Records. Applications should be made as quickly as possible, so as to be in time for inclusion in the Electors Lists before publication, but they must in no case reach the Registration Officer later than the date of the last day for claims. This date is 10th February in England and Wales and 15th February in Scotland.

Boxing Champions of England.

No. 6. BENJAMIN BRAIN (BIG BEN). 1790—1794.

BENJAMIN Brain was a native of Bristol where he was born in the year 1753. His familiar nickname, "Big Ben," was scarcely justified by his actual size as he scaled under 14 stone and stood only 5 feet 10 inches. Brain was a powerful fighter with a terrible right hand punch, although he was remarkably good with both hands. Ben passed his early years as a collier at Kingswood, and it was here he first started to use his hands and establish a local reputation by defeating all the provincial champions who were put against him. It was not until 1774, that Brain came to London where he started work as a coal porter at a wharf in the Strand. He was a quiet, respectable man, sociable in his demeanour and never presumed upon his qualities as a boxer.

Ben's first set to in London was with a soldier called the "Fighting Grenadier" in October, 1786, in which, if it had not been for the assistance of a doctor, Ben would have been beaten. The soldier was a punishing hitter and soon had both Ben's eyes closed and blinded, but fortunately for Brain, the ring was broken by roughs at this stage and he was able to get his swollen eyes lanced by a medical man by the time the ring had been cleared and order restored. A few minutes after the combat was renewed, the Grenadier gave in. Ben's next victory was against one Corbally, an Irish Champion, whom he defeated with comparative ease in December, 1788. Big Ben next received a challenge from Jacombs, a Birmingham pugilist, and they fought it out in Oxfordshire in 1789.

Jacombs was a tough customer with plenty of pluck and in the early part of the battle went for Ben in such good style that the Big 'un was forced to fight on the retreat and even resort to falling to avoid punishment. This was unlike the usual lion hearted Brain and caused a lot of murmurings among the supporters of both parties. Ben at length, however, stood up to his adversary and showed what he was capable of and after a tremendous battle, lasting one hour and twenty-six minutes, in which Jacombs showed rare courage, he was forced to give in to his more experienced opponent.

Tom Tring, a very second rate boxer, was the next to fall before Brain. The battle was fought for the paltry stake of £10, and Tring was well beaten in 12 rounds. Soon after this, a battle that had long been looked forward to took place, between Brain and "Bully" Hooper, the Tinman, who was notorious as the hired bully and companion of a certain noble lord then famous in London.

Hooper's patron had completely miscalculated his man's powers. The affair could not be called a fight. At the end of the first round, Ben hit Hooper so heavily in the body that the Bully could not again be induced to come within striking distance. He fell every time Ben went to hit him, ran all over the ring, filled his mouth with water and spat it over his opponent to irritate him at the same time hurling foul abuse at his head, hoping to throw him off his guard. At length Ben decided not to run after him any longer, but stood firmly in the centre of the ring toeing the scratch and waiting for his man to come and fight. This farce continued for three-and-a-half hours in which "one hundred and eighty" so called rounds were fought.

Towards the end of 1790, Brain reached the height of pugilistic fame when he was matched for the championship with the renowned Tom Johnson who was then Champion of England. An account of this fight is given in Article No. 5 on Tom Johnson. Brain, after a desperate battle, won after Johnson had broken a bone in his hand, and finally assumed the title of Champion.

For the next four years, Big Ben fought no battles, but appeared several times as a second, but finally, in 1794, he was challenged by Will Wood, the coachman, and decided to fight him in February. This however, was not to be, as poor Brain was taken seriously ill and died in April of that year in full possession of his Championship honours.

D.S.L.

The Raw Recruit.

BY JACKY JACKY, LATE 2ND BATTN.

IT is right that we should be reminded of our past experiences although many of us no doubt would not care to see the photos of ourselves at the time we first donned H.M.'s Uniform. However, by a stroke of luck, I happened to meet a fac-simile of myself in (the seventies I first became a soldier) and of a couple of youngsters I had the good fortune to enlist. Travelling the other day by rail I had as a companion a youngster in uniform with whom I at once fell into conversation. I see you are a Buff said I, and seeing he looked quite forlorn I questioned him as to how long he had donned the uniform. "Six weeks," said he. "How do you like it," said I. "Oh! fair," said he. "You are in the finest regiment of the British Army," I ventured to say, "and I am proud to have served in it." "I doubt, Sir, whether they worked you as hard as they worked us? Was Sergeant-Major Dare in the Depot when you joined," he queried. "I am afraid not," said I "nor do I think he was on earth at the time." He sank back doubled up in his seat worn out, but not without a smile, for he was on leave to visit his parents. Under the pretence of looking out of the opposite window I scanned him from head to foot and my mind wandered back to the time when I became a Recruit.

In '83 at Sittingbourne I relieved a Militia Sergeant as Recruiter for six weeks during which I enlisted a few men, two of whom were my facsimile, one a Bricky and the other a Londoner. The latter however could only come up to Militia standard, but in a few weeks attained normal for the Regular Army. Growing lads are like young saplings you know. Here is the portrait of the lot of us here mentioned. We had no stomachs. These we carried on our backs. We had no chests but could have sported very fair ones could our heads have been turned about. At our first drill we were so clumsy with our feet as to trip ourselves up notwithstanding the fact that our Instructor was for ever yelling "The Left foot is the *right* foot and the Right foot is the wrong one." But what preparations did we make when first donning our uniform to meet the sweetheart! Uniforms were made to allow of expansion and not to fit, to look the soldier we had therefore to improvise, and a bath towel on the chest would pass muster, but that blessed item tells a tale when you are scrutinized by the opposite sex, the result of which you become acquainted with after tying the nuptial knot and at it you blush. If you take your sweetheart for a walk see that the sisters are not trailing behind you, always keep them in front or you'll have such remarks as these passed on you:—"Nice looking fellow, is'nt he, but he is like Straight Jane from Tamerston, the same thickness all the way. He is alright in the front but look at the cloth he has got to spare behind! He requires feeding does'nt he." True, but the cook in the 70's was a man of 22 stone weight, one Slogger Homes who at the Tichbourne trial was hauled up as a witness to show to what dimension an individual could get in a very short time. He was increasing whilst we decreased in weight. So dead beat were you at 11 o'clock daily that you had to repair to the Canteen for a pint of stout and a biscuit and cheese before you could face the Gym.

"Beneath Bell Harry."

The Goose Girl.



ON the nights of January 1st and 2nd was given, in the Prince of Wales's Institute, by the Depot and their friends what may now be called, I think, their annual pantomime, for this is at least the second year in which this able body of amateurs have entertained the neighbourhood.

The title, as may be seen by looking at the top, was The Goose Girl. But titles in pantomimes do not really matter—the plot is always much the same and the reason of

the title usually becomes, as it did in this case, rather obscure. But no matter, that did not detract from the charm of the play in the slightest degree.

Now all pantomimes are run on the following lines, and this one was no exception. First of all there must be a charming damsel who is at first cheated of her right but eventually ends up by marrying the second most important character—the Prince. In some pantomimes the Prince starts as a pig, or some other repulsive four-legged creature, or a churl (that's old English for a working man). But in this pantomime the Prince was a King, and a King he remained all through, and a very fine, boisterous and gallant king he was, too, (in private life he is known as Captain Morgan). To find one to fit the role of charming damsel could have been no easy task—not, let me hasten to add, because of any dearth of this commodity round Canterbury, but because of there being so many. Canterbury always was famous for its belles, but never was it better favoured than to-day. And I am sure no one could have been a more charming and engaging Lady Di (afterwards the Goose Girl), as the programme has it, than was Miss Marjory Champion.

Another most necessary character in all pantos, is, of course, the evil genius—in all the best shows a witch. It does not sound an attractive part to play, but the most bewitching little witch which even I wish to see was Miss Maggie Godfrey, who played the part with just cleverness, vigour and realism.

Major Henry Hardy played the double role of Oldest Inhabitant and Judge in the delightfully amusing way in which those who have seen him on the stage before are accustomed to expect. But I think he was really at his best as the ancient rustic when he sang "I'm Giles from the Country."

Mr. Roscoe Reid, who fortunately happened to be on leave near by, played the part of the Court Jester in his usual inimitable style, and caused roars of laughter from the gallery when he did his famous Egyptian workmen turn.

Mrs. Green played the difficult part of the Fairy Goodness with distinction and grace, but perhaps worthy of a special word of praise was little Miss Hazel Green, who was a fairy and danced just like one. It was a delight to see such a dainty little fairy prouetting round the stage, and was much appreciated by the audience.

Sergeant Beasley and Pte. Woods made two very comic policemen, and their two songs "Everybody's grumbling" and a skit on "I 'aint nobody's darling," met with much applause.

There is not space here to mention the names of those who took the part of courtiers, attendants, etc., but the ladies all looked charming.

I must not close these notes without adding a word of congratulation to Mrs. Henry Hardy on producing such an excellent show in so short a time, and it is not the least derogatory to any of the performers to say I am sure she must have worked very hard.

Finally I must call attention to the excellent manner in which the band, under the leadership of Corporal Collier, performed throughout both evenings. They are certainly worthy of very high praise for carrying through a difficult musical programme with such marked artistic skill, and were contributing in no small degree to the undoubted success of the entertainment.

Here is the programme:—

CHARACTERS.

Lady Di. (afterwards the Goose Girl)	Miss Marjory Champion.
Hilda, (Maid to Lady Di. Really the Witch Spiteful)... ..	Miss Maggie Godfrey.
Fairy Goodness	Mrs. Green.
Fairy	Miss Hazel Green.
King Pepin	Captain H. de R. Morgan, D.S.O.
The Judge... ..	Major H. S. Hardy, M.B.E., M.C.
Curdken (Court Jester)	Mr. Roscoe Reid.
Policeman (A)	Sergeant Beasley.
Policeman (B)	Pte. Woods.
Courtiers, Attendants, etc.	Mesdames Howard Smith, Patter- son, Scringecour, Morgan, Wale. Misses Ramsay, M. Ramsay, Lee. Messieurs. Wale, Spear, Hanley. Sgts. Coaster and Amos. Pte. Simpson.

SCENES.

Act I. Scene I.	The Bedroom of Lady Di.
Act I. Scene II.	A Woodland Glade.
Act II. Scene I.	The same Woodland Glade.
Act II. Scene II.	A Court of Justice.
Stage Manager :	Mrs. Henry Hardy.

ORCHESTRA.

The Band of The Buffs Depot. Conductor: Corporal Collier.

Billiards.

"Champions may come and champions may go, but I go on for ever."
(pd) PERHAPS !!!

The above is a copy of a late telegram received by our Local Billiard Correspondent.

Great has been the excitement in the Depot lately, during the playing off of the Billiard Handicap, and everything from a £5 note to a "greyback" was used for making the bets, Wise being declared an easy winner, thus retaining his shirt, which he was rash enough to "put on" himself.

The marker, Pte. Woods, who is also a third rate player, and had previously been beaten by the present Champion, stood like a statue of liberty with tears of anguish running down his cheeks, during the playing off of the semi-finals, and after Wise had finished the game with a break of 29, a very husky voice from near the scoring board was heard to say "game" and a deep sigh of remorse was heard from the other side of the table, and Old Ted laid aside his cue, and adjourned with his head held very high, in search of a "snifter." The Orderly Room Staff have accumulated such a fortune over this, that Banks is contemplating marriage.

Then came the Final 500 up, Ted meeting L/C. Gilbert, level, Pte. Woods again being marker, but one man was missing from the assembly, it is thought that he had no shirt to attend in.

In this game Wise led from the start, but in the third hundred his opponent "Our George" got within 15, then Wise led off again finishing and winning the game by 46, another groan was heard from the scoring board, and Gilbert in a sportsmanlike manner walked up and shook hands with Ted. When the news was circulated round the Depot, one man was believed to have fainted in the Guard Room.

The following is the advice of the Champion to all aspirants to Billiard Fame:—

When breathing don't blow the balls about.
Always keep the right hand on the cue, and the left hand on your shirt.

If the marker groans take no notice.
Finally a still Tongue made Ted wise.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Rain, snow, sleet, mist, fog and every other kind of inclement weather has been our lot during the past month and we have as a result very little to write about in connection with out-door events.

(Continued on page 66).

The Depot Pantomime.



The Troupe.



And the Propoganda Party.

Beneath Bell Harry—Continued.

No wonder some of us at times get a touch of the Blues at having to put up with the dreadful stuff called weather invariably experienced in this gloomy city during the winter months.

Our indoor life has been much as usual—plenty of good recreation in many directions, especially the weekly dances and whist drives which are so looked forward to on account of the delightful atmosphere of sound friendship and companionship which surrounds our happy gatherings. The prizes, too, in the Whist Drives are well worth winning—as a matter of fact they can be rightly called valuable, and reflect much credit on C.S.M. Love, the President, who has the selecting of them. We have an idea, however, that his homely and happy little Mam Sahib has a finger in the pie in selecting such useful and suitable presents. We have set out on the accompanying table the results, etc. of the four Drives held during the past month.

The result of the Spoon Shoot was as follows:—

Silver Spoon. Sergt. MacWallie, D.C.M., M.M.
Wooden Spoon. C.O.M.S. Snowey Manning.

While it is in our mind let us all here offer dear old Bill Jones (now with the 2nd Battalion) our very heartiest congratulations on the birth of a son, and to Mrs. Jones for the part she took in the matter. May the boy grow up and develop into as smart and good a soldier as his dear old Daddy. You know, Bill, if you want to win at Crib you have got to keep on pegging, so don't be afraid old Pal, keep on with the good work. All Power to your elbow.

And while on the subject of Jones's, we must let you know that dear old Vic (some call him Vic, some call him Arthur and some Albert) has been invalidated home from the Gold Coast, and gave us a look up the other day. He is now spending ten weeks' holiday at Wouldham Tiddelham, his country seat in the County of Kent. He's had a rough time of it but now begins to look his dear old self again, and yet his far-away-look seems to convince us that he is pining for the sweet little Squaw he has left behind him at Coomassie.

Sergt. Holman of the 1st Battalion who has been home from Gib. on a Course at the M.C. School, Netheravon (and got a "D" there, too), leaves for overseas on the 25th instant. He's put on any amount of flesh and openly admits he could "yaff" three men's dinners. He's passionately fond of Pork for supper, and will no doubt remember a certain Sunday night when he scooped a small leg of it, and left six others of us to go to bed simply famished. O, Percy! We have just heard that Mrs. Clayton (wife of Jock the Musician) has got her orders to proceed to Gib. early in February, the 8th, we believe, and it is unnecessary to say how delighted she is. We are glad too, for really it must have been very miserable for her here alone with everything packed up waiting, waiting, waiting.

The final of the Billiard Tournament in the Major George Porter Challenge Cup will be played off before long. The four competitors left in are Mr. Sutton, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Daniel Sherren and Sgt. MacWallie. We scarcely like to predict the result. May the best man win? We are late with our Notes this month—it's the fault of the Old Crab—but we hope that the Editor may cram them in somewhere. Forgive our grammar, please, if we have made any unpardonable slips.

W.M.S.

WHIST DRIVES.**Winners and Prizes.****No. 1.**

Ladies. 1st.	Mrs. Osborne	Ladies' Trinket Set.
Ladies. 2nd.	Mrs. Smith (R.E.)	Cheese Dish.
Gents. 1st.	C.S.M. Love	Oil Painting.
Gents. 2nd.	ex-S.M. Nightingale	Small Fancy Clock.
Ladies' Booby.	Mrs. Wagstaff	Pair of Ladies' suspenders.
Gents' Booby.	Mr. Argrave	Pair of boot laces, (poor old Alf).

Concealed Number prize. This number was held by four people—two ladies and two gents, and they had to cut for the prize which was eventually won by Miss Taylor of the N.A.A.F.I., Cavalry Depot, who had to cut twice with each of the others. She won each cut with the Queen of Clubs. This lady also won an oil painting in a raffle the same evening. Mrs. Stone and Sgt. Groombridge of the Coldstream Guards (a son of dear old Tom of the Buffs) had thirteen trumps between, the cards being dealt by Nipsy Edwards. Nipsy can do all sorts of "shady" things with his hands. Old Peper Jackson will verify that. He says he wouldn't trust him as far as he could throw him. Shame!

No. 2.

Ladies. 1st.	Mrs. Channer (Cav. Depot)	Tea Set.
Ladies. 2nd.	Mrs. Warr	Set of Jugs.
Gents. 1st.	S/Sgt. Smith (R.E.)	Clock.
Gents. 2nd.	Mr. Dixon (Recruiting)	Safety Razor.
Ladies' Booby.	Mrs. Prime	Salt Cellar.
Gents' Booby.	Sgt. Holman (1st Battn.)	Small box of Cigars.
Concealed Number.	Mr. Vaughan	Oil Painting.

No. 3.

Ladies. 1st.	Mrs. Wadkinson (R.E.)	Clock and ornaments.
Ladies. 2nd.	Mrs. Keegan	Cheese Dish.
Gents. 1st.	Sgt. Groombridge	Ebony walking stick.
Gents. 2nd.	R.Q.M.S. Ings	Wallet Pocket-Book.
Ladies' Booby.	Mrs. Channer (Cav. Depot)	Pearline Butter D'st.
Gents' Booby.	S/S. Smith (R.E.)	Cigar Holder.
Concealed Number.	Miss Williams	Oil Painting.

No. 4.

Gents & Ladies 1st.	Mrs. Channer (Cav. Depot)	Silver Cake Dish.
Gents & Ladies 2nd	Mr. Gale (R.E. Depot)	Clock.
Ladies' Booby.	Mrs. Stone	Pair of vases.
Gents' Booby.	Sgt. Warner (2nd Battn.)	Pocket Knife.
Concealed Number.	Mrs. Partridge	Oil Painting.

Things we want to know.

Who was the Sergeant who, on first parade one morning said to a Recruit:—"Your ears are dirty, 'Look at 'em!'"
And was he formerly on a small trading ship, as they call him a Coaster.

Privates' Whist Drive.

A very enjoyable evening was spent on Monday, 14th inst., in the Canteen, there being twenty-one complete tables.

Mrs. Martin, wife of Sammy, took the ladies' first prize, which was a China Flower Pot, and Mrs. Lewry, wife of Lish, the second, a Cake Dish.

Pte. Tullack was winner on the Gents' side, walking off with a watch, and Pte. Adams, 2nd prize, a shaving set. The Boobies were awarded to Mrs. Martin of Milk Fame and Pte. Tugwell, the man who ran 100 yds. in 15 minutes.

These weekly drives are getting more popular every time, as we have some of the best Artistes the Depot can produce, to amuse us, and then some of the Bandmen very kindly volunteer their services and supply us with a drop of Jazz Music.

The one and only fault we can find is the lack of the fair sex. Now come along you young soldiers and start your "square-pushing" as soon as you can, and then we can promise you ever so much more enjoyment.

"B."

Football.

On account of Xmas Leave we have played but very little football, two league matches in the Cinque Ports League and three friendly matches being decided. Results as follows:—

1st Match: Recruits v. R.A.M.C. Won by us 5-1.
2nd Match: Recruits v. R.A.M.C. Won by us 7-1.
3rd Match: Recruits v. R.A.M.C. Won by us 9-0.

They were all very good games and good scores were registered because our lads were more "nippy," and we hope in the near future to be able to play some of them in the Depot Team.

Cinque Ports' League v. R.A.F. Manstone, away.

Lost by us 0-5, our heaviest defeat for three years.

We were beaten by a team much stronger than us, and who played better football than we did. The game was a very clean one and played in the very best of spirit.

Cinque Ports' League, v. R.I. Fusiliers at Dover.

Lost by us 1-3, after a game played in a hurricane of wind, a sea of mud and showers of rain. There was very little real football played as conditions made it practically impossible, the R.I.F., however, were a little better together than our team and took more advantage of the tide. We were very pleased indeed to have with us as chief supporters our esteemed Commanding Officer and Mr. Spear, who braved the elements and stuck it to the end.

Inter Squad Shield.

By the time these notes are in print we shall have started our monthly shield competitions—Football, Cross Country, Running and Wrestling being the events to be competed for.

Privates' Whist Drives and Dance.

Our Weekly Whist Drive and dances are going very well indeed; about 120 attending the last one. Two hours whist and two hours dance is a delightful way of spending a winter's evening, especially the ones we are getting now.

Useful presents such as watches, safety razors, knives are given each week and competition is very keen to be the possessor of one.

Useful Booby prizes are also given, such as Soap, Cleaning material, etc.

Invicta.

UNCONQUERABLE! Valient braves,
Sons of a shire where Freedom flowers
In beauty rich; whose soul so proud
Unfaltering beats in turbulent hours.
Onslaught 'gainst onslaught; blow 'gainst blow;
Stubbornness pent in ev'ry thrust,
Stemming the waves of frenzied hate,
True to traditions and trusted trust.
Not all the hosts can break ne'er a rank,
Proud, proud Invicta yields no ground
To Tyrant's arms, "Battle still on"
Rings through the ranks with ringing sound.
Hours slowly drag 'till relief draws nigh,
Through dark to light and Victor's cries,
Not a vain boast of untamed blood,
For a Kentishman never yields, but, dies.

"SPRING-CHICKEN."

B. & W. FISK-MOORE,
High Class Photographers,
Canterbury.
Tel. 337.

The Band Menagerie at Singapore.

1911—1912.

BY CORPORAL, JAMES F. WRIGHT.

I SHOULD like to call to the memory of all past members of 2nd Battalion Band who served in Singapore with the band the miniature Zoo owned by Bandsman (Sammy) Mayes at that time.

Among the many wild beasts possessed by the fearless Sammy, were a full grown tiger, a 20 foot python, a boa constrictor, a young bear, two mouse deer, two civet cats, a monkey and an iguana.

Many readers may be interested to know the manner in which these wild beasts were kept and cared for by the owner.

Firstly, the tiger was kept out on the green opposite the bungalow, and one can imagine how eager everyone was to go and admire this wonderful beast which used to cause him to get into a violent rage, and his terrible roars could be heard miles away both day and night.

Needless to say, several of the Old Stagers at that time, who always did justice to the "Wet Canteen" were not in the least upset when the order came for this terrible beast to be destroyed, as many restless nights were spent in fear of the "Band Man-Eater" escaping during the hours of darkness.

The day eventually came for the operations to begin. A bullock Wagon arrived at the Band Room early one Thursday morning, that day being an authorized holiday, to take the Man Eater down to the sea, where a boat had been previously arranged for on which he was taken out into the deep water, where he was dropped overboard to drown, cage and all complete, that being the easiest way to end his life having regard for the safety of those who took part in the execution.

This procedure was quite a success as the renowned Sammy arrived home the same evening with his dead tiger in a rickshaw, much to the relief of many, whereupon he (the tiger) was promptly skinned, and his flesh was sold to the Chinese. His teeth were mounted on small shields and sold, and his beautiful skin, which was little the worse for the wetting, was dressed and cured, and sold also, so that the bargain of buying the tiger was not all loss. "Hence the quick end of the Man Eater."

Having rid ourselves of the tiger, one could hardly sleep in comfort knowing that the pretty twenty-foot python, secured only in a "tate-sugar box," covered with a small piece of ordinary mesh wire was living in the same bungalow as ourselves.

Sammy considered this reptile quite harmless, and would calmly put his hand in the box and pick off all the dead skin from the python's body, and when he required feeding, which was about once a week, he would hand him a whole chicken, "stolen from the Jungle" of course, which he would swallow with ease.

Many complaints were made to Sammy by members of the Band of how easy it would be for this reptile to escape, until eventually he had to meet the same fate as the tiger.

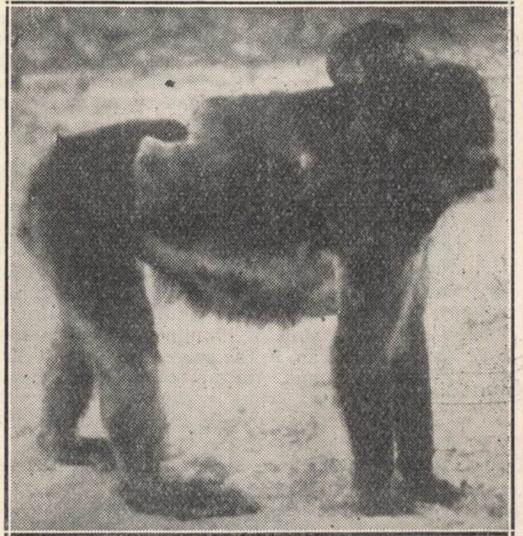
His death took place one Sunday afternoon in the wash-house, where he, and his box, were placed in a tank of water, but to the horror, of many he absolutely refused to be drowned for some few hours, during which time everyone round about was in fear of his life lest he should manage to escape from his box.

You can picture everyone standing well back when his box was eventually taken from the tank, and only "Sammy" himself was left to extricate the monster from his fragile home.

He was soon skinned when found to be dead, and Sammy had no bother in disposing of his remains, as his skin alone attracted several bidders without any trouble.

(To be continued).

Gibraltar Monkey.



The above excellent photograph was sent us by the Sergeants' Mess, 1st Battalion. It represents an unique animal with its young on its back. It is closely related to the Barbary Ape, but is the only native representative of the ape or monkey tribe found in Europe. This is such a singular fact that one is tempted to wonder whether these animals may have been introduced to the Rock by man, else why do they not occur in some of the many sierras of Spain. ?

The Burutu Bird.



THIS sketch represents a favourite pet of the natives who dwell near Lake Chad. It is described as being fearfully grave and deliberate, and it assumes quaint attitudes, one of which is here portrayed. It is generally silent, but occasionally emits a sound resembling a note on a reed instrument. It has a very human-looking eye, a bag under the beak which suggests a double chin and the feathers on the top and back of

the head give it the appearance of having allowed its hair to grow too long and of having neglected to brush it.

Unfortunately we are unable to give its size and the colour of its plumage, but a photograph which recently appeared in an illustrated paper, makes us wonder whether the Burutu Bird is related to the Goliath Crane.

Pigs in Clover.

At Preston Hall, the Kentish village of ex-service men, a pre-war painter on pottery has devised a super-pigsty.

Enamelled white, it has piggy's name on a brass doorplate, and when little porkers push their snouts into the world an electric bell rings in the pig-keeper's cottage. There are chrysanthemums round the sty.

The 4th Battalion.



THE month of January, we hope, has been devoted to putting into execution all the good New Year resolutions that have been made. Companies and detachments are getting down to drills and to the task of filling up the ranks. At the time of writing, the Battalion strength is 18 officers, 591 N.C.O.'s and men. This is 2 officers, 45 men below establishment, but well above any other unit in the Division. In this connection, local recruiting committees under the chairmanship of prominent local civilians are in the process of being formed and are in some cases already at work. The names of such of these committees as exist are as follows:—

Margate.—His Worship the Mayor (P. H. R. Venner, Esq., Shottendane House, Margate.

Folkestone.—E. J. Bishop, Esq., Kyrle House, Upper Folkestone Road, Folkestone.

Dover.—E. L. Barlow, Esq., "Eythorne Grange," Near Dover.

Whitstable.—Captain A. Knowles, 22a, Oxford Street, Whitstable.

Herne Bay.—G. Cursons, Esq., "Ranelagh" Canterbury Road, Herne Bay.

Cranbrook.—Colonel W. Horsley, V.D.

Yalding.—Lt.-Colonel A. W. Reid, M.C., (R.E.), "The Elms," Yalding.

Horsmonden.—G. Barton, Esq., Rams Hill, Horsmonden.

These gentlemen will be glad to hear from Officers, N.C.O.'s, or Men desirous of taking up Territorial work and even from others who, though unable to join, are willing to assist in the task of filling up the ranks. These committees deal direct with the County Association and are a valuable element in making known the requirements of the T.A., and in backing up, in the right quarters, the efforts of local officers to obtain recruits to organize smoking concerts, and tradesmen's shoots. It is hoped that they will persuade employers to induce their men to join, and enable them to fulfil their obligations, in the matter of camp especially, when they have so joined. A meeting of one of these committees was attended at Herne Bay on Saturday, 12th, and here at least, live work is being undertaken and results will soon be apparent. So early, from a purely regimental point of view, we offer our thanks to these committees for all they propose to do.

Camp this year, has been definitely fixed to take place at Seaford from July 13th to July 27th. This is a most acceptable denial to previous rumours and makes it possible for the Weald Company, at any rate, to turn out in full force.

A successful gathering was held in the Canterbury Drill Hall on 15th December, of those who served in the 1/4th Battalion in India and Mesopotamia during the war. Some 350 of those splendid men re-united that evening, many making the journey from far distant places. A full report of the gathering appeared in the *Kentish Gazette* of 22nd December. The following officers were present:—Lt.-Colonel T. Mainwaring-Dunstan, T.D., Lt.-Colonel Skey, J.P., Major G. M. Kingsford, Capt. T. Keeler, Capt. C. S. F. Witts, Major A. C. Grigg, Captain H. I. Cremer, Capt. H. F. Whitfield, Capt. B. S. Collard and Lt. Igglesden.

A most enjoyable "beer and beef pudding" dinner and prize giving was attended at Cranbrook on Dec. 22nd. A full report from the pen of the local correspondent will, it is hoped appear elsewhere. This company forms the members of the old 5th Battalion and right worthily carries on its tradition. Speeches from the members of the newly formed local recruiting committee promised us their generous and active support and through their endeavours a long waiting list of would-be recruits for the Weald Company is confidently expected.

On Saturday, 5th, the Sittingbourne Detachment had their annual prize-giving and smoking concert, of which a glowing account appeared in *The Kentish Gazette* of Saturday, January 12th. This was a really splendidly organized gathering for which the greatest credit is due to those responsible. It was a revival after a lapse of 10 years, and the splendid prizes so generously given by local residents and tradepeople speaks volumes in favour of the keen spirit which exists in Sittingbourne.

The Dover Dances continue to be a great success. There was a most successful one on Wednesday, 16th, which was hugely enjoyed by all present. The hall was gaily decorated and the local orchestra set moving tingling feet and twitching shoulders in satisfying exaltation. A prominent place over the door was given to a banner which has just been presented to the Company. They are proud of their new acquisition which is a relic from the Old Volunteer days and will be treasured as an emblem of the early solid volunteer spirit on which the Territorials now build. Some 300 members and guests must have been present.

This month we bid farewell to Captain T. B. Cheeseman who retires amid universal regrets under the age limit, and to Captain Brisley who goes to the reserve.

We have received a welcome letter from George E. Lang, who was in the 70th Company and later in the 2/86th Battery, R.G.A., in Aden and Karachi and Mesopotamia during the War. He asks for news of his friend, Mr. W. J. Rodda who served with the 1/4th during the war and obtained a commission later. Mr. Lang writes from 178 Drayton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada and offers first hand information on working and climatic conditions in Canada to anyone thinking of proceeding there. He also wishes to be remembered to Mr. Ovendon, Mr. Jordan (Granny) and Mr. Ray (Ginger).

We are handicapped in Thanet just now through a lack of officers, but the efforts of C.S.M. Bennett and his Territorial N.C.O.'s are tiding over the hiatus with great credit. All, we are sure, will soon again be well in this former island stronghold.

V. E. E. W.

SITTINGBOURNE DETACHMENT.

After a lapse of ten years, the annual distribution of shooting prizes to B (Sittingbourne) Company was revived, the function taking place at the Drill Hall, Sittingbourne.

Captain Donald J. Dean, V.C., was in the chair, supported by Lieut.-Colonel F. Mainwaring-Dunstan, T.D., Officer Commanding the Battalion; Major R. H. Scott, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Lieut. Davies, M.C., Adjutant of the Battalion, Captain A. S. Lowe, Captain Keeler (Quartermaster), Captain A. J. Bedelle, Captain W. Shapland Cowper, the Rev. A. P. McNeile, C.F., Captain Hedley Peters, J.P. (Sittingbourne Fire Brigade), and Councillor E. F. Hancock.

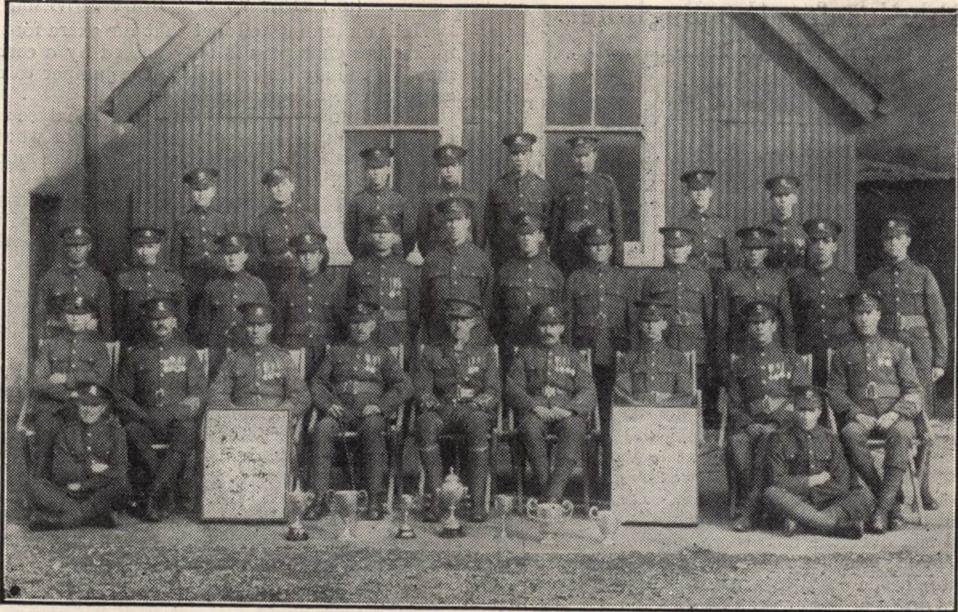
The Chairman's table was laden with silver cups and trophies awaiting presentation.

The presentation took place during an interval in the smoking concert that had been arranged.

The popular O.C. was enthusiastically toasted, and with the singing of "God save the King" ended the first prize distribution smoking concert held by the Sittingbourne Territorials presided over by a V.C.—and a local V.C. at that. If that is not making history, what is?

The detachment have made a good start this year for prizes, as we have already been offered these by some "Local Tradesmen."

We were also very pleased to see some of the Whitstable Detachment with us on this special occasion.



Folkestone Detachment, D Coy., 4th Battn. The Buffs.

THE WEALD COMPANY.

The Annual Company Dinner took place at The Village Hall, Horsmonden, on Saturday, 22nd December, 1923. There was an excellent muster and the commissariat department was very well managed by Mr. Tourle. We members of the Weald Company were very pleased to have the following guests with us: Col. J. Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., Major Burns, Major Clarke, Major Howard Smith, Lieut. Davis, M.C., Dr. Rogers and the Chairmen of our Local Recruiting Committees, Col. Horsley, V.D., Major Reed, M.C., and Mr. Barton. As the pay had been hung up it was found that the only time the bounties could be paid was at the dinner. This was done as quickly as possible and the evening's entertainment then proceeded. Dr. Rogers kindly sang some appropriate songs and the Horsmonden Village Band, under Mr. Bowles rendered some tunes. Col. Body, whom everyone welcomes at Buff gatherings, spoke with regret of Captain Cheesman's retirement as Company Commander. The Weald Company indeed lose a true Buff, but he is close to H.Q. and we have no idea of losing touch with him. We were glad to have Major Howard Smith with us. It was one of his last nights as Adjutant to the Battalion. In the words of the Captain "He is a white man." We hope he will always come to our gatherings when he is near by. The Chairmen of our local Recruiting Committee also spoke and we are sure that in them we can put our trust. We welcome them and will do all in our power to assist them in their important work. We were pleased to see two fresh faces Lieut. Davies, M.C., our new adjutant, and C.S.M. Baker, who comes to us as permanent staff instructor.

Towards the end of the evening Captain Cheesman presented the prizes for competitions won in 1923, as under —

Elliott Cup, best shot in the Company.....	Sergt. Beale.
Challenge Cup, best shot in No. 9 Platoon.....	C.Q.M.S. Nash.
" best shot in No. 10 Platoon.....	Sergt. Beale.
" best shot in No. 11 Platoon.....	Sergt. Hicks.
" best shot in No. 12 Platoon.....	Sergt. Hooker.
" best Recruit in the Company.....	Pte. Packham.
" Inter Platoon Battle Practice.....	No. 9 Platoon.
" best Lewis Gunner.....	Cpl. Roberts.

**Territorial Army.
WEARING OF SASHES.**

Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, not below the rank of sergeant, in the infantry regiments of the Territorial Army (except rifle regiments), are to be permitted to wear sashes with service dress uniform on ceremonial parades, on barrack duties and when walking out. If the greatcoat is worn on such occasions, the sash will be worn over it. Shoulder sashes are worn over the right shoulder, except in the Somerset Light Infantry, in which regiment they are worn over the left shoulder.

Royal Tank Corps.

It has been decided to form a permanent list of officers for the Royal Tank Corps, to include both executive and engineer officers. There will be one Colonel Commandant for the Corps. The establishment will be filled in the first instance by the transfer of officers of the British Service who will be transferred with their regimental seniority; and preference will be given to officers who have served with units of the Corps, but suitable officers of other corps and regiments will also be considered for transfer if they so desire. First appointments will be made from the Royal Military Academy, the Royal Military College, approved Universities, and the Royal Military College, Kingston. Promotion will be governed by establishment, except in the case of promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, which will be made under the general rules in the Pay Warrant. Officers up to and including the rank of major who are extra-regimentally employed will be seconded. Lieutenant-Colonels will not be seconded.

Engineer officers now serving with the Corps, who are selected for transfer to the permanent list and may come up for promotion within three years from the date of their permanent transfer to the Corps, will not be required to pass examinations for promotion during this period.

With this exception, all officers of the Corps will be required to pass such examinations as may be laid down before they can be considered as eligible for promotion. The grant of temporary rank will cease as from 21st August, 1923.

DRAGON BOUND VOLUMES.

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Athletics for the Beginner.

BY CAPTAIN F. H. W. NICHOLAS, M.C.

THE LONG JUMP.

IN order to become a successful jumper it is essential that the would-be champion should have (a) speed, (b) spring, and given the factors essential there are four things which the would-be long jumper must learn, namely:—

- (i.) How to reach the board with his correct jumping off foot on it.
- (ii.) How to get height in the air.
- (iii.) How to get body movement in the air.
- (iv.) How to land.

(i.) HOW TO HIT THE BOARD.

The jumper should stand about 30 yards from the board. A sprinter starting will have reached maximum speed at about 20 yards or so. An assistant is now required to watch at the take-off board. Three very visible marks should be made along the run—one at about 7 yards from the board, one at 17 yards, and one at about 27–30 yards. Start at 30 yards and run easily until the 17 yards' mark is reached. Then run at full speed until the 7 yards' mark is reached. Then shorten stride and run over the board—taking no notice of the board. The assistant, who should be watching the feet of the jumper, should note where the jumper's take-off foot comes down nearest to the board.

The start of the run must now be adjusted backwards or forwards according to whether the jumper's take-off foot was in front of or behind the board. A few trial runs through will soon get this accurate, when the jumping off foot will hit the board. Every run must be made exactly in a similar way to each other, in speed and length of stride, so that eventually, after practice, the jumper will be able to hit the board automatically.

After the first few trial runs through, an actual jump without effort should be made each time, so that there will be no difference in the run or stride when the actual effort is made. The aim being to get the correct foot on the board for the jump automatically, without worry or looking for the board.

(ii) HOW TO GET HEIGHT.

We will assume that stage one has now been perfected. It will be found that no great distance can be jumped since the jumper will strike the pit almost as soon as he has jumped if he does not get height.

The reason will now be apparent for the shortening of the stride for a few paces before reaching the board. If the jump were taken at full pace, with full length of stride, there would be no room for extra spring to get the lift. The shortening of the stride enables the jumper to gather himself together in a kind of crouch so that ankle, knee, and hip joints can get full leverage for the lift. Speed does not suffer, because the lessening of it in the last 6 yards is negligible—if the runner has been going all out for 10 or 12 yards previously.

The take-off, then, must be an intense muscular effort, the straightening of the take-off knee, the ankle push, the flinging forward of head, shoulders, body and arms in an *upward* direction.

Practice standing jumps over tape—gradually raising tape and increasing distance of tape from take-off board. After this practice jump, with short run, over tape placed 10–12 feet off take-off board, and 3 feet high. Again increase length of tape from board and height of tape. Then increase length of run until full run is taken at tape as far away as possible and as high as possible. This will be found to be good practice for "bunching," *i.e.*, raising knees to body and body to head and shoulders. Place piece of cloth over tape in middle, so that the obstacle can be easily seen. The tape should be easily broken, so that jumper may suffer no injury if he hits it.

(iii.) HOW TO GET BODY MOVEMENT.

It is an undoubted fact that the extra foot or so that makes the champion is only gained by a certain movement in the air which enables the jumper to remain the extra fraction longer in the air.

It is a movement most difficult to analyse and may be either a shoulder and body movement or what is known as the rabbit kick. The latter is becoming more common and is based on the effort made by the legs (much the same as cycling) to propel the body forward through the air. If the lift has been sufficient it will be found effective, but care must be taken that both feet are finally forward before landing.

The other form of movement can only be described as a wriggle. It is an endeavour to keep height by the resistance of gravity through the agency of the arms and shoulders. On taking off the board the hands are thrown out and up and the head and shoulders forward. Knees tucked up towards the chin. When the highest point is reached a violent effort is made by the hands being thrown down, knees kicked down and legs forward and shoulders uplifted. The chief difficulty is to remember to make this movement while in the air. It is a help for an assistant, standing by, to shout at the critical moment—in practice. This movement is almost vital and every effort should be made in practice to get some extra jerk while in the air.

(iv.) HOW TO LAND.

The chief consideration is to fall forward so that no part of the body will touch ground behind the feet. Also both feet should be as close together as possible or the jumper will find inches lost because one foot is behind.

To fall forward will be automatic, if the arms have been correctly swung in the air and the feet flung forward. As the feet touch the ground first their forward movement is stopped, while the body and shoulders still have a forward impetus, which will result in their falling forward. Should there be any tendency to fall back, the fault will lie in the body position in the air, and effort must be made when taking off to reach forward with head and shoulders as well as upwards.

Emblems on Soldiers' Headdress.

All ranks of the Army are now authorised by King's Regulations to wear a poppy on the uniform headdress, when not on duty, on 11th November, being the anniversary of Armistice Day of the Great War.

Army Senior Officers' School.

It is announced that the Senior Officers' School is to be moved from Woking to Sheerness. The 14th Course at the School which was to have been held from 11th February to 9th May, has been cancelled. The 15th and 16th Courses will be held between 23rd May and 15th August, and between 23rd September and 20th December, respectively.

Overseas Settlement Course.

It is officially stated that soldiers who have no reserve service to complete their engagements are eligible for the Overseas Settlement Training Course during the last six months of their service, provided that accommodation is available for them at Caterick.

Information regarding settlement of ex-soldiers in Canada and Australia, is to be brought to the notice of all men about to leave the Service in time to permit of applications being made for admission to the special courses of instruction at Caterick.

Training in the Army.

The War Office announce that there will be no Army Manœuvres on an extensive scale during the present year.

Instructions have been issued that the training for 1924 is to be confined to Divisions and smaller units.

In accordance with these instructions, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions will carry out their training in the New Forest between the middle of August and the end of September, and the 4th Division at Aldershot during part of the same period.

Royal Tournament.

The Forty-first Annual Tournament will be held at Olympia, Kensington, W., from Thursday, 22nd May, to Saturday, 7th June, 1924, inclusive.

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Hunting.

BY SIR THEODORE A. COOK, EDITOR OF "THE FIELD."

IT is not always that a soldier can get hunting; but when he can, he will find the experience most useful. Cavalry did not have much chance in the last war in France, but on other fronts, especially in Palestine, they were indispensable; and whatever the foot-slogger or the airman or the tanker may say, you will never be able to fight another war without cavalry at all. The first (and almost the only) time we met German cavalry with our own, in August, 1914, the former did not, perhaps, have much chance of showing up well, as they were generally outmanoeuvred by our mounted units during the crises of the Retreat from Mons. But apart altogether from any comparison of fighting values—which is not my province—I think it is proved that the Hun was on the whole a bad horsemaster, and rarely understood the art of getting across country. This is only natural, considering that almost his only chance of practising was in manoeuvres, for in Germany there is even less of what we should call hunting than in France, and very much less of the knowledge or practice of what may be called scholarly horsemanship; I do not mean so much the *haute école*, valuable as that may sometimes be, as the experience and sympathy which teach a man how to get the most out of his animal, how to save him for emergencies, how to care for him when he is not being ridden. Much more of all this can be learnt when a man hunts fairly regularly, and looks after his own horse, than by any other means.

In many foreign countries the fashion of the "military ride" had begun some years before 1914. I never liked the idea, and I liked the practice still less. It did the horse no good, and it was practically useless to the soldier. A single horseman is not wanted nowadays to cover long distances in war as fast as his horse can carry him. He would be useless as a fighting unit, and he is much inferior to the telephone as a messenger. Foreign cavalry have not benefited by the "military ride," which seems to me to need a horse with more Arab blood in him than we usually breed, though the Americans, French and Belgians have done remarkable performances in these competitions, and a modified form of it was introduced into the Olympic Games in 1912 at Stockholm. It has never been popular with Englishmen, because we have got far better practice of the kind suggested in the hunting field.

For some time after the Boer War there was an idea that a good polo pony (nearer 15 hands than 14) would be the most useful mount on active service. But that campaign had peculiarities of its own which are not likely to be reproduced on European battlefields, though the handiness of a polo pony for mounted infantry could scarcely be denied if mounted infantry were ever wanted. That polo is one of the soldier's very best games I shall always believe, for it teaches the finer points of riding as almost nothing else will. But we cannot all afford the number of ponies polo requires nowadays to make anything like first-rate showing; whereas a day out hunting, or an occasional race "between the flags" over a good country, will never be impossible to anyone who loves a horse. One thing (even if few will support me) I must affirm in this connection, and that is my distrust of the forward seat which has been necessitated in flat-racing ever since Tod Sloan won everything "like a monkey on a stick." Never again at Epsom or Newmarket shall we see riders like Fred Archer sitting back and driving his horse before him. Personally, I shall never understand how Donoghue keeps on at all round Tattenham Corner. At the last Derby meeting he came right off (his mount broke a bloodvessel) just opposite my

seat in the Grand Stand, on ground as hard as iron. But he was riding in the next race but one, and won it, which shows what fitness can do. That was an accident which might have unseated anyone; but I should think the slightest stumble would shoot many of our little jockeys helplessly over his head when a two-year-old is learning his business. And that is one reason why I like long stirrups, a sound 16-hand horse, and sitting well back, in the hunting field.

The foreigner has often come over to try and learn the game, and France, from whom in fact we developed all our hunting and learnt most of the hunting language we still use, has sent us much the best. But a very famous visitor to Melton Mowbray some seventy years ago was the Hungarian Count Sandor, who came to stay with Lord Alvanley, and was mounted for the season for £1,000 by a well-known horse-dealer, including turnpikes, keep of six horses, and stabling. He seems to have been determined to get his money's worth, for Ferneley made a set of coloured prints showing him taking a toss in a dozen different attitudes, and he was so proud of it that he took home the originals, with a few mares of the right sort, to Hungary. He was a worthy predecessor of Charles Kinsky, so lately dead, the only man who rode and trained his own horse for the Grand National, and won on Zoedone. But the Germans never took to it much. I have described elsewhere the death of a stout English fox on the French front in the first winter of the war. It was very different from the old stories of Wellington's pack in the Peninsula. Reynard was a bagman, of course, and very hungry, and he made a bee-line for the enemy trenches as soon as he got fairly away. I had sent over a few couple of hounds to help keep some of the horses in condition, and they were about a hundred yards off when the little red varmint (apparently scenting food) leapt straight into a German trench, and the next thing seen of him he was dead, on the end of a German bayonet. There had been a little firing at first—though without much damage—because Fritz seems to have thought we were developing a new form of cavalry attack with bloodhounds in front. But the officer must have known a little of Charles Kinsky's Leicestershire, for he soon stopped the rifles. It was the French who stopped the hunting; they took everything very seriously about that time, before the Aldershot Command Sport Board had really shown the world what sport meant to the British Army.

One great benefit hunting has always given the English soldier, and that is an eye for country. The Duke of Wellington used to say that any great general ought to know what there was "on the other side of the hill;" and though aeroplanes have now done more in that way than he would have ever imagined possible, the real experience of the lie of the land that hunting gives you is invariably of the greatest use in warfare. And what land we have at home to look at!

"The down's lean flank and thrusting snout,

Pale pastures, red-brown plough, dark wood,

Blue distance, still as solitude,

Glitter of water here and there,

The trees so delicately bare,

The dark green gorse and bright green jolly—

'O glorious God,' he said, 'how holly!'

It is curious we should have had to wait so long for the finest hunting poem (of any sustained length and beauty) in the language. But John Masefield has done it at last, and given a worthy sister to such shorter songs as "John Peel" or Whyte Melville's ringing stanzas. There was a soldier-poet of a fox-hunter for you! And how rarely can the man who hunts put pen to paper, or the writer go a-hunting! The combination is almost unique in every generation, and we are still waiting for the Jorrocks of our own. Many

(Continued on next page).

Hunting—Continued.

a time have we seen something like the famous run from "The Cat and Custard-Pot," without a soul to put it upon record. Can't we look forward to something of the sort in your Weekly Sports Supplement, in which I have by now taken up far too much space? With only one eye left, my hunting days are over, for I can see nothing on the off side; but I did see the first day the Prince of Wales had with the Pytchley this season. We were at Pitsford Hall, and the meet was some way off. From a shyly-concealed dog-cart behind a hedge I was just able to watch them drawing Kibworth Sticks. Sir Charles Frederick and most of the field were round the other side, and there had only been a soft whimper in covert for about ten minutes, when suddenly in dead silence out came Reynard pointing straight across the pasture, with a single hound, mute and racing at his brush. How I yelled! Round came the pack, off went the Prince with Captain Drummond and the Master in the lead; and I drove home. But I would sooner hunt than write about it any day.—T.A.C.

(With acknowledgments to *The Weekly Sports Supplement*).

"The Officer's Derby."

THE ADVENTURES OF TWO DRUMMER BOYS.

IT was the first year the Second Battalion was stationed at Kilkenny and the day of the Regimental sports had arrived. The chief attraction was the Officers' Donkey Race and not a small amount of money had been offered and taken on the result. The drummers, unfortunately, had to parade in their full war paint to play "White wings, they never grow weary" and other famous ditties for the benefit of the Sergeant Major's physical drill party.

At breakfast, it was mentioned by one or two of the older hands, that horse dealers were fond of using a substance known as "Ginger" in order to make lame horses jump and quiet ones prance so that an unsuspecting purchaser would be palmed off with a dud. This talk was overheard by two drummer boys, Ernie and Tom who decided on the spot that the experiment was worth trying on the donkeys.

The Drums marched on to the sports field, but our two boys, having their pockets stuffed with the donkey's elixir, found the utmost difficulty in keeping step. They soon discovered the Officer's thoroughbreds drawn up in line: how the officers stroked them, fondled them, patted them, gave away carrots and cuddled them. Ernie and Tom, however, had no such tender feelings. They considered the beasts about as poor a specimen of degenerated flesh that ever possessed four legs.

The animals hardly ever opened their eyes, whilst some were so tired that they squatted on their hind legs in a sitting posture and for all the world looked like living representations of "His Master's Voice." After a while, the officers went away and left the donkeys to the mercy of our two adventurers, who quickly made the most of all opportunities.

It was not long before it was observed the "Ginger" was having a most wonderful effect: instead of the quiet docile lumps of flesh, signs of restiveness were noticed: had our two boys left well alone, everything in the garden would have been lovely. They decided each donkey must have a double dose and whilst endeavouring to apply this extra ration, Ernie—to his great surprise—got a beautiful kick on the hand which raised a lump as big as a football, and moreover, he was deposited on the ground about ten yards away.

Not dismayed, the two imps lay on the ground and cried with laughter—and pain—watching and waiting for the officers to come across to mount the donkeys. To add further to the fun, poor old innocent Mother

Cassidy passing by with her usual assortment of "kiswaskies" was kicked in her apple basket and shot head over heels, and on rising, protested vehemently in full Irish brogue "she had'n't touched the brutes at all, and there was no earthly reason why they should lash out at poor Mother Cassidy."

"Next Event! The Officers Donkey Race." Overstrolled the officers to mount their steeds, but somehow the donkeys were entirely different creatures to the ones that accepted carrots so peacefully about an hour past. They were prancing about like a blooming lot of marionettes: their eyes were fierce and bloodshot: their tails lashed fury: the "Ginger" had done all that was expected—and more.

It was not long before most of the officers were wondering if they were taking part in a race, or had suddenly been deposited in a bull ring. After lumps and bruises they approached the beasts more like dismounted Toreadors than jockeys. At one time, eight officers were counted holding one donkey whilst its rider mounted for a very short period, prior to being quickly dismounted.

"Was there a race that day? Not at all! the brutes nearly kicked each other to death. So much for "Gingering" the donkeys. Ernie had a damaged hand for over a month but heaven knows what some of the officers got. The tears of laughter shed for many a long day after by these two schellums afforded adequate compensation for any hurts. "Did the officers find out? To the best of my belief they did not, but it was worth fourteen days any time.

J.E.

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We would appeal to all readers to back, whenever and wherever they can, the firms which are backing our venture with their advertisements. These houses are all of high reputation and they display sound commodities which are at all times in greater or less request. And please mention "The Dragon" when giving your order.

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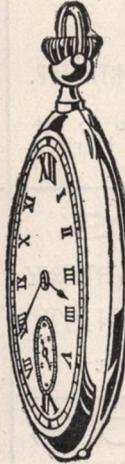
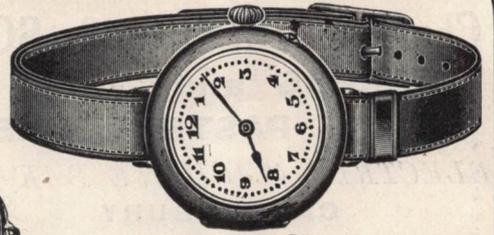
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BY CAPTAIN H. H. C. BAIRD, D.S.O.

The Railway Strike of October, 1919.

"O H yes, its a strike alright," are the words that have just reached me on the phone, and my thoughts go back to an interesting and amusing experience of October, 1919, when the wheels of progress and understanding got jammed from a similar cause.

At this time my little rag was being printed and published at Brighton: our issue of 5,000 copies was awaiting delivery, and there was no train service at our disposal. Undaunted, however, we decided that at all costs we should serve the interests of our readers just as efficiently as the *other* (!!!) magnates in the newspaper world, and we also resolved on a little publicity stunt into the bargain.

An order for 10,000 leaflets advertising *The Ex-Service Man* was placed at the printers, and my little two-seater car was requisitioned. The way this poor little devil stood the strain was amazing: there were bundles of papers and posters both in the dicky and on top of it, along the floor boards, and wedged in between the wings and the bonnet, with the result that the "Gunk, Gunk, Gunk" of the springs every time we passed over a nobbly bit will always be remembered.

En route we disposed of our leaflets: in the streets of every village and town through which we passed hundreds of leaflets were scattered; and they attracted a good deal of attention, firstly on account of the illustration, especially drawn for the paper by Mr. John Hassall, depicting an Ex-Service Man deep in thought with one hand to his head and a muffer round his neck and also owing to the only wording on the bill, in addition to the name of the paper, being, in big, bold type:—

THE STRIKE—BUT!

see page one.

So it was on our entry into London: wherever we went, and regardless of what the law might have to say in the matter, leaflets were thrown from the car. I heard afterwards that one of these was picked up and taken home by a lady in whose house Sir Robert Horn, the then Minister of Labour, happened to be staying: she, like many others into whose hands these leaflets fell, believed it to be a "Bolshie" production, and thought it advisable to bring the matter before someone in authority. This lady happened to be one whom I had known for a number of years, and she had not recognized me when throwing my leaflets from the car!

By mid-day the whole of our issue, less 1,500 copies were distributed to the trade, and then began the most amusing part of this never-to-be-forgotten experience. With our 1,500 spare copies we took up our position in The Strand to test out luck, selling the paper in the street. Fore, aft, and sideways, double crown posters, bearing Mr. Hassall's illustration and the words "The Strike—But!" were plastered on to the car: and the little paper was offered to the passers by at twopence a time. By three o'clock we were sold out.

In the next issue of the paper, my assistant editor wrote as follows:—

"Helping the Chief (I apologize for this, but its always done! H.H.C.B.) to overcome the strike by distributing the paper to the trade by motor car journeys and then retailing it in the Strand, was not without its amusing side. We came across many old friends, made many new ones, and discussed the way of the world with many officers and men tramping the streets for work. We sold the paper to all and sundry. General officers gave us their "tuppence" with the rest of them, but we dismally failed to induce the Bishop

who passed us by. We also chatted with several railway men on strike who also patronized us. *The Ex-Service Man* is printed to be sold and read, and whenever the necessity arises, we shall sell it in the streets again. So that's that."

This article would not be complete were mention not made of what "The Strike—But!" was all about, so I give the copy which accompanied it: here it is:—

To YOU, Ex-Service Man.

Save Your Country.

NOW IN ITS HOUR OF CRISES, IT IS UP TO YOU TO DO THE NEEDFUL.

DO IT.

You know what to do.

It is not necessary for us to tell you.

You know! You learnt "out there"

Jerry could'nt beat you. Will you let anyone else? If you can handle a locomotive, handle it: if you can't handle one, you can handle "the Goods"—and you can handle them damned well.

SO—GET GOING AND GET THIS STRIKE OVER!

On this occasion it will be remembered that the Government had to make an appeal to the public for assistance in maintaining order, and in the distribution of food, etc.

New Career for Boys.

A NEW career for boys has been opened under the scheme of technical training instituted by the Army Council to meet the difficulty of finding skilled tradesmen for service in the technical units of the Army. More than 500 boys, chosen by means of competitive examinations, are already at work at Aldershot, Maresfield, Woolwich and other centres, and places are now to be found for at least 250 more.

Candidates for these additional places must be between 14 years and 8 months and 15 years and 4 months on 1st May next, and will have to pass an examination to be held on 4th March, at London, Leicester, Bradford, Preston, Reading, Bristol, Cardiff, and other centres throughout the country.

Those who pass in the prescribed subjects—English, Arithmetic and general knowledge—will spend some three years in learning one or other of 30 trades, including those of armourer, artificer, boilermaker, carpenter and joiner, draughtsman, electrician, instrument maker, wireless operator, patternmaker, painter, plumber and gas fitter; and they will be enlisted in the Regular Army for 12 years (reckoned from the dates on which they attain the age of 18). Their first period of service, as a whole, will extend, therefore, to approximately 15 years.

During their training the boys will be maintained free of cost to their parents or guardians, and in addition will be paid at rates varying from 1/- to 1/9d. a day. On becoming 18, privates will get from 3/- to 5/- a day, according to their trades and degrees of skill, but non-commissioned officers will be paid at higher rates, and the way to promotion will be so open that the most proficient may attain the rank of Commissioned Officers.

Detailed information regarding the training scheme as a whole and application forms, which must be returned not later than 13th February, can be obtained from all Army Recruiting Offices throughout the country.

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Regimental Gazette.

The Depot.

Officers.

4TH BN., THE BUFFS.—Lt. B. E. Davies, M.C., The Buffs, to be Adjut., and is granted the temp. rank of Capt. in the T.A. (with pay and allowances of a Lt.) whilst holding that appointment. (Dec. 14, 1923).

4TH BN., THE BUFFS.—Capt. T. B. Cneesman, having attained the age limit, is ret. (Jan. 12), and retains the rank of Capt.

THE BUFFS.—Maj. and Bt. Lt.-Col. H. B. Potter, D.S.O., retires on ret. pay (Jan. 16), and is granted the rank of Lt.-Col.

THE BUFFS.—Lt.-Col. H. B. Potter, D.S.O. (Maj. and Bt.-Lt.-Col., ret. pay), to be Lt.-Col. (Jan. 16), with seny. March 27, 1922.

RECRUITS.

INCREASE.

Pte. J. Taylor, Pte. T. Ratcliffe, Pte. J. Kelly, Pte. F. Barnes, Pte. H. Kemsley, Pte. E. J. Skarden, Pte. J. T. French, Pte. J. R. Culver, Pte. C. W. H. Bicker, Pte. P. Ward, Pte. A. Mastin, Pte. A. Cartwright, Pte. F. J. Jordan, Pte. F. Russell, Pte. C. Tanner, Pte. R. Tebble, Pte. C. F. Pierce, Pte. R. A. Fagg, Pte. A. L. Russell, Pte. A. W. Bourne, Pte. A. King, Pte. H. Sullivan, Pte. R. J. N. Smith, Pte. B. Richardson, Pte. R. G. Bygrave.

DECREASE.

3514884 Pte. G. Drew, 6282136 Pte. S. South, 6282276 Pte. F. Samuelson, 6282262 Pte. S. Joy, 6282015 Pte. A. Snashall, 750805 Pte. G. H. Coleman, 6282154 Pte. J. Andrews, 6282295 Pte. A. Mastin, Boy T. Henricksen, 750805 Pte. G. Coleman, 6281358 Pte. R. W. Wells, 6280576 Pte. F. J. White, 6280456 L/C. G. H. Burt, 7339818 Pte. J. Green, 6278392 Cpl. Cornwell.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

6280301 Pte. H. S. Mills.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.

The following were awarded Third Class Certificates of Education at an examination held on 30-11-23:—

6282081 Pte. A. Ansley, 6079315 Pte. J. Belsom, 6282178 Pte. C. Dewcock, 6282213 Pte. Crampton, 6282137 Pte. F. Green, 6282172 Pte. Mitchell, 6282204 Pte. F. Sayer, 5764956 Pte. Townend, 6282221 Pte. A. Ash, 6282209 Pte. S. Brown, 6282190 Pte. Beardmore, 6282216 Pte. Clifton, 6282181 Pte. Harmon, 1665738 Pte. Russell, 6282206 Pte. E. Smith, 6282220 Pte. W. Tobin, 6282189 Pte. Appleton, 6282212 Pte. Bottomley, 36553815 Pte. Cross, 6282215 Pte. Farrell, 6194992 Pte. A. Knight, 6282015 Pte. Snashall, 6282144 Pte. Thornton, (Amendment. From the above list delete the name of Pte. Green, as this man failed to qualify in Arithmetic).

APPOINTMENTS.

Appointed unpaid Lance-Corporals with effect from 13-12-23:— 6282188 Pte. T. Leach, 748066 Pte. D. Rodwell.

TRANSFER.

T/2388 Pte. H. Bliss.

DISCHARGES.

6282274 Pte. C. Pierce, discharged 11-1-24, Para. 363 (vi. b), K.R., and struck off the strength.

6282295 Pte. A. Mastin, discharged 11-1-24, Para. 363 (vi. a), K.R., and struck off the strength.

No. 6282208 Pte. F. Saunders will be paid up to and for the 21st instant, on which date he will be discharged under Para. 363 (v. a), King's Regulations.

RECRUITS.

Pte. C. Humphreys and Pte. A. J. Gower, attested at Canterbury, 14-1-24, paid by R.O. for that day only, and taken on the strength.

Pte. A. J. Gorham and Pte. W. E. Foad, attested at Canterbury, 17-1-24, paid by R.O. for that day only, and taken on the strength.

The 1st Battalion.

DISCHARGE.

6281501 Pte. S. Keeler, discharged on transfer to H.M. Royal Navy.

EMBARKATION.

6278392 Cpl. C. Cornwell, proceeded to U.K. for transfer to Army Reserve, 17/12/23.

HIGHER RATE OF PAY.

The following have been granted higher rate of pay with effect from 16/12/23, 6281445 Pte. H. Pople; 3/12/23, 6281415 L/C. C. Hunt; 9/12/23, 6281447 Pte. J. Ashby; 14/7/21, 6279989 Dmr. C. Wood; 3/10/23, 6280070 Pte. A. Edwards; 3/8/21, 6281170 Pte. E. Hunt; 30/12/23, 734347 Pte. C. Amos; 28/12/23, 6281457 Pte. F. Broadbridge; 30/12/23, 6281460 Pte. J. Putoffck; 28/12/23, 6281465 Pte. F. Quelleron; 31/12/23, 6280705 Pte. V. Worth.

PROFICIENCY PAY.

Granted Proficiency Pay from 16/10/23 to 31/12/23: 6280009 L/C. C. Pepper and 6279345 Pte. T. Stewart.

Granted Proficiency Pay from 22/3/23, to 31/12/23: 6278736 Pte. E. Taylor.

FAMILIES—ARRIVAL.

6279462 Cpl. H. Bell. Wife arrived on 18/12/23.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL.

6278072 Sgt. R. P. Legge, awarded the Long Service and Good conduct Medal with Gratuity. (Authy. A.O.s Nov. 1923).

TRADE TESTS.

6279288 L/C. H. Osborne passed Class III., Group "B" as Carpenter and Joiner, 12/12/23.

EXTRA DUTY PAY.

6280010 Pte. J. H. Martin granted extra duty pay whilst employed as assistant Company Accountant, with effect from 1/10/23.

The 2nd Battalion.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

6279434 Sgt. W. Stewart extended the term of his present engagement to complete 12 years' colour service.

6279009 C.S.M. J. Simon extended the term of his present engagement to complete 12 years' colour service.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL.

6279501 Cpl. R. Croucher awarded the Long Service and good conduct medal with gratuity.

APPOINTMENTS.

6279053 Pte. F. Towerzej appointed unpaid L/Cpl., 23/11/23.

6279549 Pte. O. Stocken and 6281360 Pte. C. Kimber appointed unpaid L/Cpls., 11/1/24.

DISCHARGES.

6278079 C.S.M. A. Vincier, D.C.M., M.M., 6280371 L/Cpl. W. Freedman, 6281117 Pte. J. Potter, 6281981 Pte. W. Fearman.

INCREASE.

6282236 Boy A. Banks, 6278804 Dr. P. Stone, 6282260 Boy W. Jones, 6282261 Boy J. Webster, 2380404 Pte. C. Cowling, 6282284 Pte. S. Hallifax, 6282233 Boy T. Henricksen.

TRANSFER TO ARMY RESERVE.

6278433 Bds. J. White.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.

The following were awarded 2nd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Portland on 11th December, 1923:—

6281483 Pte. E. Blanch, 6281878 Pte. H. Brown, 6281692 Pte. J. Dixey, 6278727 Cpl. A. Field, 6281837 Pte. C. Fulwood, 6281824 L/C. A. Harvey, 6281854 Pte. A. Hover, 6282057 Pte. G. Kendall, 6281013 Pte. A. Miles, 6281839 L/C. S. Marshall, 6281835 Pte. H. Strand, 6282070 Pte. H. Wilson, 6281734 Pte. J. Wills, 6279702 L/C. R. E. Baker, 6281788 Pte. E. Coveney, 6281726 Pte. J. Dodson, 6278776 Pte. C. Follington, 6279811 Pte. H. Gilbert, 6281673 Pte. E. Hawkins, 6282128 Pte. E. Hughes, 6281715 L/C. J. Langdon, 6281843 Pte. F. Mullinger, 6279332 L/C. C. Richardson, 6281631 Pte. A. Smith, 6281811 Pte. R. Watson, 5987411 Pte. P. Young.

4th Battalion.

RE-ENGAGEMENTS.

6280829 Pte. A. Burt, 6280827 Pte. H. R. Dear, 6280832 Pte. J. J. Lester, 6280822 Cpl. H. R. Roberts, 6280998 L/S. E. Newman, 6280652 Cpl. H. Lott, 6280687 Cpl. R. G. Smith, 6280792 Cpl. G. Graham, 6280903 Pte. W. Wheatley, 6280795 Pte. W. Whiting, 6280862 L/C. H. Biss, 6280577 Pte. H. G. Hatcher, 6280826 Pte. L. R. Hicks.

DECREASE.

6281394 Pte. H. Rogers, 6281720 Pte. L. Blackman, 6282072 Pte. T. E. Baker, 6448265 Cpl. C. Ward, 6281338 Pte. W. Blogg, 6280794 Cpl. A. Berry, 730600 Pte. M. Carter, 6281721 Pte. H. Stroud, 6281981 Pte. J. Taylor, 6280561 L/S. F. S. Reed.

INCREASE.

6282279 Pte. N. O. Watts, 6282280 Pte. F. W. McCrow, 6282302 Pte. L. Scott, 6282301 Pte. A. J. Maitland, 6282289 Pte. R. J. Costen, 6282268 Pte. W. Glsby.

Army Rations.

The ordinary rate of allowance in lieu of rations for Officers and other ranks serving at Home for the three months commencing on 1st January next has been fixed at 1/7 a day.

Extension of Army Service.

An Army Order provides that any extension of service re-engagement to complete 21 years' service, or continuance beyond 21 years, will be allowed only on the understanding that the applicant is willing to extend, re-engage or continue under such conditions as to pay and service as may be laid down by the Army Council from time to time.

Appointments to Permanent Staff.

An amendment of the King's Regulations provides that a warrant officer, class II., or a non-commissioned officer recommended for appointment to the permanent staff of the Territorial Army (Yeomanry and Infantry) will not be required to qualify at a School of Musketry or Small Arms School prior to appointment if he has returned from service abroad within a period not exceeding six months prior to the date of his posting to the permanent staff. Such a warrant officer or non-commissioned officer, however, must be a marksman or 1st class shot, and will be required to qualify at a school of musketry or small arms school at the first available opportunity after joining the Territorial unit to which he is posted.

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No. 292.

March, 1924.

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Personalia.

WE much regret that, owing to reasons of health, Major C. D. K. Greenway has been compelled to resign the Secretaryship of the Regimental Committee and the Editorship of *The Dragon*. The thanks of the Regiment are due to him for his hard and unsparing work since he took over last October.

Eighty-seven applications for the post were received as a result of the advertisement in *The Times*, *The Morning Post* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Colonel H. Findlay, C.B.E., late The Buffs, has been selected to fill the vacancy, and we accord him a hearty welcome.

We congratulate Lt.-Colonel A. G. Trollope on his promotion from the 1st Grade Magistracy at Vrede, Orange Free State, to Senior Grade at Harrismith in the same colony.

The 2nd Battalion left Harrismith in 1908 and there are many old friends of the Regiment still there. The people still play polo.

The 2nd Battalion Band has, we hear, secured some engagements on the pier at Southampton for the coming season. Mr. N. Catchpole, as might have been expected, has helped towards this end.

The 4th Buffs were well represented at the Dover Police Athletic Clubs' Tenth Annual Dinner, held at the Hotel Burlington, Dover, on Wednesday, 23rd January, 1924, by Ex-Inspector Southey who joined some 30 years ago, but left on joining the Police Force, holder of the King's Police medal and Royal Humane Society's medal, P.C.'s W. Fagg and W. Taylor who were in the South African contingent, holders of the Queen's S.A. Medal, and P.C. Deal, holder of the 1915 Star, B.W. Medal and Allies V. Medal.

We heard recently from Mrs. Hollis, who returns to England this month from Demerara. She gives us news of Mr. Harry Combs, late The Buffs. He is manager of a sugar plantation and his address is Pln. Rose Hall, Canje, Berbice, British Guiana.

Mr. P. F. Tucker, D.C.L.I., writes from Lucknow. He sends his best regards to R.S.M. Dare and C.S.M. Love. He also wishes to be remembered to Pte. J. Turner from whom he hopes to have a letter.

Corporal J. S. Durham, 28th Squad: R.A.F., writes from Peshawar that he is looking forward to the time of his return to England. He was engaged in bombing operations just before Christmas.

We are sorry to hear that Major G. Porter has been suffering from an attack of lumbago and hope that the waters of Bath will speedily affect a cure.

On page 85 will be found the dates set apart for the Annual Dinner of The Past and Present Association, the Past *v.* Present Cricket Match, and the Regimental Golf Meeting, and those hoping to be present at any one or all of these are invited to notify their names to the Secretary as early as possible to enable these to be published in *The Dragon* in advance.

The Dragon Club Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 18th: full particulars as to time and place will be notified later.

Lieutenants W. H. Rowe, G. H. Mitchell and J. C. T. Crozier have sailed for West Africa where we wish them a most enjoyable and successful tour.

We hear of Colonel W. H. Trevor as being runner up in a recent monthly medal competition at Hythe.

The Editor would welcome for publication photographs and snapshots depicting life in all Battalions and the Depot: very few of these have been received lately.

Mr. James Marshall, late No. 2091 Colour-Sergeant 1st Battalion, sends his good wishes and remembrances to Sergeant-Major J. Bennell, Cr.-Sergeant Frank Bovenzer, Major Foster, Sergeant-Major W. H. Cooke and Master Tailor Sutton. He writes from Waitakururu, Hauraki Plains, New Zealand.

Mr. G. L. Lushington writes from Ceylon:—
"I was much interested by the picture of Portland Castle. I lived in the Castle as a small boy in 1902 when my father was second-in-command of the 2nd Dorset Regiment then at Portland.

Colonel R. F. Pearson recently visited the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, where he met Pte. W. J. Sandon who is employed in the Staff Mess there. He has been there since 1907. Pte. Sandon enlisted in The Buffs on the 12th February, 1892, went to India on the 26th January, 1893, and left the service in 1902.

Colonel Pearson also met No. 2608 Pte. J. Clarke (Nobby) who enlisted on the 5th June, 1878, served in the Zulu War and on the North West Frontier 1895-97. He served altogether 21 years of which 19 years 329 days were abroad. He also was, at one time, employed at the Royal Military Academy and is now at the Royal Arsenal where he worked during the war.

Personalia—Continued.

Major F. W. Tomlinson pleads that pressure of work has prevented his writing his usual article on "Colonels of the Buffs."

General and Mrs. Hickson have gone for a few weeks to Dinard.

We understand that General Sir Guy and Lady Bainbridge have taken a villa near the same town.

Major E. F. Gould, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy, has been in England for some days; he returns to Cibourne (St. Jean de Luz) where Mrs. Gould and John are recovering from measles.

Lieutenants Mallam and Thorne-Thorne were playing for the Army Crusaders *v.* The Rest at Aldershot; the latter, more recently, played in the match Army *v.* Corinthians, at Shorncliffe

Major C. Hood, looking very flourishing has been paying one of his very infrequent visits to London. He has been taking dancing lessons to enable him to take the floor with his daughter. We understand that his boy is to go to Winchester.

Colonel Ailla Gage is leaving Cowes, in his yacht, the "Amphitrite," for a cruise in the Mediterranean.

We hear that Captain and Mrs. Morgan, Captain Tuke and Lieutenant Webster have been to Switzerland for the winter sports.

Mrs. Power is home in England for a time from Gibraltar.

Those of our readers who saw in *The Times* the very flattering account of the R.A.M.C. Memorial Book, which is to be placed in Westminster Abbey, will be interested to hear that our own Book is being done by the same artist, Mr. Graily Hewitt.

The R.A.M.C. Book has been on view at the Victoria and Albert Museums during February; and it is hoped that it may be possible to exhibit the Buffs Memorial Book in London, before it is placed in the Warriors' Chapel on the first Sunday in August.

It is thought that the many old Buffs resident in London, who cannot easily go to Canterbury, would be glad of such an opportunity.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTH.

Pike.—To 6280323 Pte. A. Pike, a son, Arthur Edward, at Canterbury, on 28/1/24.

ENGAGEMENT.

The engagement is announced between 723424 Lce-Cpl. Charles Foad, 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, Portland, and Minnie Hilda Nellie Garratt, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garratt of Deal. Mr. Garratt was better known in the service as the late 2938 Pte. E. Woods (Lhakrie) 1st Battalion The Buffs.

SILVER WEDDING.

At St. Nicholas Church, Sholden, March 11th, 1899, William Henry Williams, late 3387, Pte., 1st Battalion The Buffs, to Ellen Jane, 2nd daughter of John Williams, Cottington Alders, Sholden.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacky Jacky (Whitmore-Whitford) late 2nd Battalion and now of The Haven, Aerodrome, Bekesbourne, celebrate their Golden Wedding on the 30th instant. Both have many years to their credit in the service of the Empire. Jacky Jacky has had 47 years, *viz.*:—four Naval, five in 5th Lancers, seven in 2nd Battalion The Buffs, fourteen on Australian General Staff, and seventeen at War Office. They tied the nuptial knot when Jacky had but two years' Army Service. In May next, both will have entered their 70th year of existence. Not a bad record? If there is any Buff—Past or Present—who can excel the above service, we should like to hear from him.

DEATH.

Gould.—On the 8th February, at 35 Roland Gardens, S.W., Caroline, widow of John Gould, aged 81.

OBITUARY.

MR. A. O. BODMER.

THE passing of Albert Oscar Bodmer at "Braeside," Escombe, on Wednesday, removes another of that rapidly diminishing band of colonists through whose efforts the early history of this country is written. Born in Dover in 1855 and arriving in Durban as a member of that well-known regiment, the 3rd East Kent (the Buffs), Mr. Bodmer experienced the shipwreck of the St. Lawrence on Paternoster Point as a preliminary to the stirring times of the Zulu War, in which his regiment participated (under Colonel Pearson), when the perilous times of Eshowe and Rorke's Drift, *inter alia*, were incidental to the defence of this Colony. Of the old "Buffs" of his period, but few remain. Fortunately, the spirit infused by these stalwarts burns as brightly as ever and was maintained by the late Mr. Bodmer on his reverting to civilian life. One of the earliest members of the old Royal Durban Rifles and Natal Naval Volunteers (when associated with the late Mr. Harry Escombe), he subsequently joined the Witwatersrand Rifles, and only the passing of years precluded him from taking a more active part in the Great War than that of censor, when internment camps were formed. It was, therefore, a tribute to his duty, nobly and cleanly done, that occasioned the gathering of a large number of ex-service men, volunteers, and commercial houses when his mortal remains were laid to rest yesterday in the Military Cemetery adjacent to the Old Fort, in which he was stationed some forty years ago, and in which he took such pardonable pride. A keen Imperialist he at all times was amongst the earliest to proffer his services on the side of law and order in the various troublous times this country has seen.

Commercially, Mr. Bodmer held the respect of those he came in contact with, and was an ardent supporter of all healthy sports. His death will cause much regret, as his open-heartedness was almost proverbial, for "Bod," as he was familiarly known, never turned a deaf ear to anyone requiring a helping hand, and was generous to a fault.

Wrapped in the Union Jack, and carrying the Zulu, Basuto and Boer War medals, so well earned, his mortal remains were laid at rest, the service being conducted by the Rev. Mr. Cox, of Bellair.

The Natal Mercury, Friday, November 23rd, 1923.

The Regimental Committee.

THE PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION.

THE pamphlet relating to the Constitution, Aims and Objects of the Past and Present Association, can now be said to be almost an accomplished fact. As these notes are being written, the Committee are revising the printer's proofs, so presumably the word "Go" will be given in a few days time, and the book actually make its appearance within the next month.

BADGE.

As regards the Association badge, for the supply of which tenders have been called for, the committee have decided that The Dragon to be shown thereon shall be the same as that approved by the Garter King at Arms, the Keeper of the Colours. An illustration of this Dragon is given below.

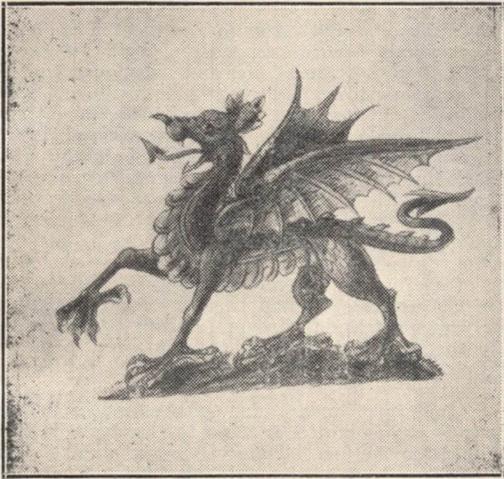


Illustration of the Dragon, as approved by the Regimental Committee for the Badge of the Past and Present Association.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1924.

The Annual Dinner.

After much discussion and consideration of the many suggestions that have reached them, the Committee have decided, provided that the necessary arrangements can be made, that the Annual Dinner of the Past and Present Association shall be held this year at Canterbury, the date chosen being the opening day of the Canterbury Cricket Week, namely August 2nd.

On the Sunday following, a service will be arranged in the Warriors' Chapel, at which the Memorial Book containing the roll of those who lost their lives in the Great War will be handed over to the Dean and Chapter for safe keeping.

The officer commanding The Depot has very kindly offered to provide accommodation in barracks for visitors, and no doubt he and his host of willing supporters will show their usual energy and enterprise in providing for social arrangements.

The Committee hope that these arrangements will meet with general approval, and that all hoping to be present, will notify the Secretary as early as possible: this will enable their names to be published in *The Dragon* from month to month, a course of action which cannot fail to encourage their comrades to come along also.

Area Representative.

Captain C. J. Hervey, 5 Harold Terrace, Dover, has consented to act as Area Representative for No. 2 Area, Deal and Eastry.

The Regimental Golf Meeting.

Arrangements have been made for this to take place at Royal St. George's, Sandwich, on Thursday and Friday, October 2nd and 3rd, and the thanks of the Regiment are due to the Committee of Royal St. George's for their kind offer of hospitality.

At the meeting the following events will take place:

(1) 36 Holes competition, medal play under handicap, for the Paget Challenge Cup, 18 holes to be played on the morning of each day. (The present holder of the cup is Major L. Howard Smith).

(2) 36 Holes Scratch competition to be played concurrently with above.

(3) Best 18 holes of the Meeting, medal play under handicap.

(4) Best last 9 Holes, medal play under handicap.

(5) Bogey competition under handicap in the afternoon of the 1st day.

(6) Foursomes competition, medal play under handicap, in the afternoon of the 2nd day.

(7) Past v. Present Competition to take place concurrently with (1) on the same lines as last year.

Entrance fees will be 7/6 for the meeting, or 5/- for one day only; and here again the Committee would be glad of early entries being sent to the Secretary to enable the names of competitors to be published in *The Dragon*.

Past v. Present Cricket Match.

As already announced in the January *Dragon*, this will be played on Saturday, July 19th, when accommodation during the week-end will be provided in Barracks for visitors. Lt.-Col. R. S. I. Friend, D.S.O., Bramling House, Nr. Canterbury, will be glad to hear from Past Buffs desirous of playing; and the Secretary from all others hoping to be present; the names of these will also be published in *The Dragon* as and when received.

REGIMENTAL ANNIVERSARIES.

The Committee are taking steps to compile a list of Regimental Anniversaries and will welcome suggestions from readers of *The Dragon*.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

The following grants have been made during the past month:—

		£	s.	d.
Loan.	To enable old Buff to buy stock to hawk	1	5	0
Loan.	To assist disabled Buff, until he draws his pension	1	0	0
Grant.	Old Buff unable to work, just recovering from an illness	1	0	0
Grant.	To assist old Buff suffering from lung trouble	0	10	0
Grant.	To assist Old Buff who is trying to start working on his own. He has experienced great difficulty owing to bad weather and illnesses ...	2	19	4
Grant.	To enable boy attend father's funeral	1	0	0
Grant.	To assist Old Buff to buy clothes	0	10	0
Grant.	To assist Old Buff: he has been out of employment for some time, and no one in the family is earning anything	2	0	0
Grant.	To help Old Buff. He is out of work and out of six children only one is able to earn anything	2	0	0
Grant.	To assist Old Buff out of work, no resources	1	10	0
Loan.	To help Old Buff take up a job in the Midlands	2	0	0

Regimental Committee—Continued.

Grant. To help Old Buff, has eleven children all unable to work. The man also is not working	0	10	0
Grant. To help man to buy clothes, pay his railway fare, and take up a job...	3	5	0
Grant. To enable Old Buff to take up work...	3	0	0
Grant. To assist old Buff, out of employment	1	0	0
Grant. To assist man. Is in a very bad way, nearly destitute, and with very bad clothing	2	0	0
Loan. To help man to buy food, he starts work in a few days	0	10	0
Grant. To assist man while he is waiting to begin work	0	10	0
Grant. To assist Old Buff suffering from consumption. No pension	1	0	0
Grant. To help very old Buff, just come out of the Infirmary	1	0	0
Grant. Man out of work through poisoned neck, to assist him a little	0	10	0
Grant. To help widow of an Old Buff until she goes into a Home	1	0	0
Wages paid for casual labour during January	5	10	0

DONATIONS TO BENEVOLENT FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Captain A. F. C. Johnston	0	10	0
Colonel D. F. Lewis	1	0	0
Major G. F. D. Hickman	0	10	0
Captain F. A. Morrell	1	0	0
A. J. Stett	1	0	0
E. M. Underhill	0	10	0
Captain M. M. Rankin	1	0	0
Sergeants' Mess, 1st Battalion	0	10	6
A. J. Russell, Esq.	0	1	0
Captain R. de Q. Child	0	10	0
Anonymous	0	2	0

Tuberculous Ex-Service Men.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been made to secure that the local agencies of the Ministries of Labour and Pensions will actively co-operate with the Local Health Authorities in the after-care of ex-service men suffering from tuberculosis.

It has been arranged that six weeks (or as long as possible) before the tuberculous man's discharge from an Institution, the notification of the pending discharge will be sent to the Tuberculosis Officer of the man's place of residence. Thereupon, special steps will be taken, on the one hand, so that, as far as possible, the patient shall not return to home conditions which are likely to prevent the satisfactory progress of the case or to cause a relapse; and, at the same time, on the other hand, to do all that is possible to assist the man to obtain employment in a suitable occupation.

So far as the man's home conditions are concerned, the Tuberculosis Officer and his Staff, or the Tuberculosis Care Committee, if one has been established in the area, will, if these conditions are unsatisfactory, take such action as may be practicable to improve them. As regards the man's employment, if the Tuberculosis Officer considers that the man's occupation is unsuitable, he will furnish the Employment Exchange with a list of occupations which he considers not definitely unsuitable for the case. The Employment Exchanges will render all possible assistance in this matter, and special efforts will be made by the King's Roll Committee and by the Chief Area Officer and the members of the War Pensions' Committee.

The Departments concerned in these arrangements are satisfied that the success of after-care in cases of tuberculosis depends primarily on personal effort and individual attention, and all the local organisations concerned have been asked to co-operate actively in the work.

Lecture on The Buffs.

AT a meeting of the local branch of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men Association, held at the Grand Restaurant on Wednesday evening, Mr. Isaac Newton-Moss read a very interesting paper on "The Buffs," the famous East Kent Regiment. Mr. Moss, who is well over 70 years of age, holds the distinction of having served 21 years as a volunteer and his virility and his well set up appearance bear striking testimony to the value of his military training. To help illustrate his remarks he displayed a collection of war medals with bars and ribbons awarded to men of the Regiment in campaigns all over the world, and to many of them he was able to apply something of the personal interest attaching to them. In addition, Mr. Moss displayed old prints of famous commanders of the Regiment, war dispatches and published records going back many years, in addition to the latest volume issued dealing with the part the Buffs played in the last great war.

The lecturer very strongly advocated a hobby for everybody more especially for those who had retired from business life, and mentioned that for thirty years past his hobby had been the collection of medals of the regiment with which he and his two sons had been connected. His sons served in the great war, one was badly wounded and the other sacrificed his life in fighting his country's cause. In connection with his hobby of medal collection, Mr. Moss mentioned that by keeping his eyes open and having a knowledge of medals and ribbons he had been able to run across many veterans, one as old as 89 years of age and by conversation obtain particulars of the men's services. It had been a pleasure to him to make personal friends of several and he had been able to do them a good turn by obtaining for them new ribbons to take the place of those which had become worn out.

He had met many fine characters from the regiment whose motto it was to always die with their faces to the foe. There was never an East Kent man who received a wound in his back. The Buffs, he said, had a glorious history of 350 years and the regiment was one of the most travelled in the British Army. Wherever there was fighting to be done there the Buffs would be found. They were very prominent in the Flemish wars of years gone by and it was remarkable that in the last war the regiment covered practically the same ground as their predecessors did hundreds of years ago. It was a remarkable feature of the regiment's history that they rarely had any rest from wars in one part of the globe or another, no sooner had they finished one campaign than they were off to another distant sphere. India, China, Australia, America, Flanders, South Africa, Zululand, Egypt and many other regions had found the men of the famous Kentish Regiment always doing credit to themselves and keeping the flag of England flying. Mr. Moss was heartily thanked for having provided a rich treat to his hearers.

(From a Hasting's Paper).

LOST! A BOOK.

'Thirty Years' a Boxing Referee,'

BY EUGENE CORRI.

Lent to an officer who is keen on Boxing, either serving, or staying at The Depot last year. If this meets his eye, will he kindly return it to Major Guy Lee.

The 1st Battalion.



THE main event of interest in Gibraltar in the past few weeks has been the arrival of the Atlantic Fleet. We have met them on board, in our messes, at football, at dances, and even on the Range. Among them are many friends from Constantinople and Kilia days. The weather has been terrible—endless rain.

The "Derbyshire" arrived last week bringing Major Hardy, Captain Canston and Lieut. Wale with their respective families.

The day they landed was a good sample of the "inclement" (putting it mildly) weather we are having.

Whaling excursions have been undertaken as well as pig-sticking expeditions to Africa and it is to be hoped that some of the adventurers will write interesting accounts of their experiences, imagination being unrestricted—a good story being always worth reading.

The advent of the Labour Government has given rise to rumours of a move, China being the "favourite." I believe also the P.R.I. received recently a catalogue from a firm in India. That, of course, is a "sure, sure, sign."

T.H.K.

CORPORALS' MESS, CASEMATES.

Things at the mess at Casemates are at present very lively, as many old pals from the Atlantic Fleet have been met. They also like to join us in the weekly dances and on two occasions they have attended the Social where they have had a good time. On Saturday, the 2nd of February *H.M.S. Conquest*, met us at football, it was a splendid game, but the heavy gale which prevailed spoilt a lot of the play. However, it proved a happy time for both sides, but the Men of the *Conquest* were the conquerors winning against the corporals 5-1. Everyone welcomes Cpl. Beer in the mess, and we all wish him the best of luck in "B" Company.

Things we want to know.

What was "Chalky" and "Haddy" doing round the corner; eating sugar and biscuits?

Does Redmond still eat the red labels?

Who was the N.C.O. that swiped the rum? (Perhaps "Badger" can tell us).

Is it true number one table is going on the Sack? (ask Ben).

B. AND P.

A COMPANY.

The opening days of February have been rather quiet, inter-company football and hockey seem to be a thing of the past, except for a friendly game here and there; but perhaps as the month grows a little older, we may see our Company fighting for their points towards the Harris Shield; rumours are going round that we are shortly to begin. We understand that the Band Team have already marked up 5 points, so some of us have got to beware. Outside "Sports" things are very ordinary, "C" Company have been struck off for Training and "B" are firing their Annual Course, the other Companies including ourselves pass the time away doing guards and fatigues, which are very plentiful.

We expect—any day now—to see the arrival of Major Hardy, it is expected that he will be designated to look after us, although we hear he may not be with us long. Capt. Essell—as we all know—has gone to U.K., we all wish him the best of luck at the Small Arms School, and we hope he gets a "D." In the absence of Capt. Essell, Lieut. Willows has taken over the Company, and he appears to be a "busy bee"—what with the duties of Company Commander, and Orderly Officer and little odd jobs like Courts of Inquiries thrown in, we don't envy him.

We are all getting anxious about "Bruin." We all expected to see him back last month, but he has not yet arrived. Some of us are wondering if the School of Education at Shorncliffe, have put so much into his head, that they cannot find a boat large enough to bring it all back, perhaps he will arrive on the "Derbyshire" this month, we shall see then.

A few of the Company have returned from leave, namely—Cpl. Willing, L/C. Fielder, Ptes. Gibbons, Swallow and Supple. It seems they all had a jolly good time and do not begrudge the ten guineas. Cpl. Willing got back just in time to celebrate his birthday on the 1st, and he did it right well, too.

The grim struggle for the points for the inter-platoon shield between Nos. 3 and 4 Platoon, has not yet been settled. Both teams turned out to win or lose this afternoon (February 8th) on a rain-sodden ground, but the game was doomed; for ten minutes after the change of ends, the ball gave up the ghost, and it was the only one on the ground, so they had to retire with the game unfinished with no scoring for either side. Next month we may be able to write about the Harris Shield struggle.

THE SUBSTITUTE.

Things we want to know.

Is it true that the Company's Colours are going to be painted on the stairs?

Was the Christmas Dinner worth a shilling?

Is it essential to have a rifle slung on Guard Mounting Parade?

Does the song "Barney Google" effect a certain N.C.O. in "A" Company?

Does it rain at Gib.?

Is it possible to win medals for Devotion to Duty in "A" Company? And does "Bangers" pride the medals presented to him in Tap Room?

Last of all these things, but by no means the least: How did McKenna get the "Stick"? and will history repeat itself?

B COMPANY.

On January 2nd, the Company started firing their annual course, For the first few days the weather was very favourable, then all of a sudden we had a change of rain and heavy gales which had a great tendency to check the firer from doing so well; but however, in spite of the trying conditions, table "R" seemed to do very well. Table "I," are still firing, but should the weather prove favourable they will finish this week.

Sport.

In spite of the rifle course we have still kept well in touch with sport. Many football matches have been played during the month, "B" Company having won the majority. One very good match was got up with the men of *H.M.S. Snapdragon* in which we won 3-2. The Company is also doing well in the "bayonet fencing," and last Saturday the 2nd of February, we won against "C" Company by two points.

I also wish to mention before I close that we still continue the dances which prove a great success.

B. AND P.

Things we want to know.

Who is the N.C.O. who can give two minutes' squad drill in a minute?—No Names, Etc.—Eight Acres to—

Who said "What's the time by that watch and chain?"

Why does McEwan make fellows fall over so many beds?

Has Steve really gone on the tack, would he like just one?

Who is the secret service agent for "B" Company?

Who said the battle of "Trafalgar" was fought in 1066?

Does Pile make piles?

Who got the breeze up when the bullet stopped in the barrel of the Lewis Gun on the range?

When are we going to see another Curtis and Feakins boxing contest?

Who was the man who said his rifle fired round to the left?

Did Lingham get a possible when advancing up the range?

B. AND P.

C COMPANY.

We have now got a good half of our training over and very soon there will not be an inch of the Rock we have not been over, or a step not climbed at least a dozen times. Who was it said that we could not get a very stiff training at Gib., as there was nowhere to Manoeuvre, he ought to be with us on the Race-course or better still on (Windy Hill) Flats.

For Sport we have found very little time with the exception of a couple of games of football.

Sport.

We congratulate Pte. Colby on winning the Fly-Weights and Pte. Griggs the Bantams, in the Garrison Boxing Show, but sorry they were not so successful in the Naval Cinema Show, but it was for a good cause so they do not mind. In our last notes we mentioned that we were to meet E 14 in the Bayonet Fencing League, but it happened to be A Company, whom we beat after the team leaders having to fight off for it. We congratulate C.S.M. Barrell in bringing that match home to us after a good scrap, but we unfortunately lost in our match with "D" Company at Casements on the 2/2/1924.

Football.

Our 2nd team played and beat a team from the Comoran by 4-1. On the 5/1/1924 and on the 12/1/1924, we played a friendly with "A" Company sharing two goals each. L/Cpl. Parry and Aylife scoring for our team.

We congratulate 12 Platoon on winning the inter-platoon Cross Country Run also the Bayonet Fencing.

Things we want to know.

Who was it suggested a non-player as Vice-Captain for a football team, and is it right that the same fellow has joined the R.A.T.A. and if so will he be able to give us that Song, "How I Inlisted" on a Cup of Tea?

1st Battalion—Continued.

Who was the N.C.O. who shouted No. 1 Muscle exercise ready, on musketry Parade?

Who was the fellow who told the O.C. Company, when brought up on a charge for laughing on Parade, that his false teeth fell out and he must have appeared to be laughing to the Officer, when trying to get them back, and what did his Chum tell the O.C. on the same charge?

Who was it wanted to rotate the Cocking Handle on Lewis Gun Parade.

Who was it when asked any complaints, replied "Yes! we have no bananas, I mean potatoes?"

Whether Tubby knows if the fleet's in?

Who is tarzan of the apes?

Who said, this is the first time I've seen snow for two years, and what did he do when the passer-by said it was the first time he had seen it here for 56 years.

Who turned the guard out to a police officer.

Who told Spud he could play Football.

W.H.P.

THE DRUMS.

Now that Christmas is over and our heads normal again, we have settled down to our work, but I must record what an excellent time we all had, due to L/Cpl. Allen and his Committee who deserve, and get our very best thanks for all they did to make us "full up" and happy.

Owing to wretched weather we have not had much opportunity for Sport, beyond Bayonet Fencing (in which no matter whom we meet we always seem to be beaten by one fight or our poor old team leader has to go through it). However, we hope to put up a better show after the R.S.M. (our Boss) has shown us a few "queer uns". So look out Dick, with your team of unbeatables, the Skin Wallopers are out for revenge.

Our Congratulations to our "Punchers," Lce.-Cpl. Baker and "Froggy" French, on their splendid wins in the Garrison Boxing Competition, both winning their weights, the former beating the Rock Champion after a good clean "Scrap." Another of our "Squad" (Lackrey Wood) managed to get into the final of the "Bantams" but his opponent was obviously too "hefty" for him, and he lost, no matter, "Lack," stick it and we all hope you will have better luck next time.

We have recently lost our two old Soldiers Corpl. Edwards and Johnny Clements: both are busy preparing for Civilian Life at a Trades Course and are attached to the R.A.O. Corps. We wish them every success, but I should like to remind them that the Drums are still on the Rock and "Garries" run between Jumpers Bastion and South Barracks.

Our regular Correspondent (Dr. Russell) is at present in England on leave (lucky dog), and we hear he is to take unto himself "wives one," may he and Mrs. "Buster" be very happy and all their troubles "little ones."

Things we want to know.

Is the Tartillery a New Regiment, and are they Station here?

Who put his fag out at 11 p.m., so that nobody would know he was alive?

Has Dolly finished Jazzing? Why doesn't he try a Jumper?

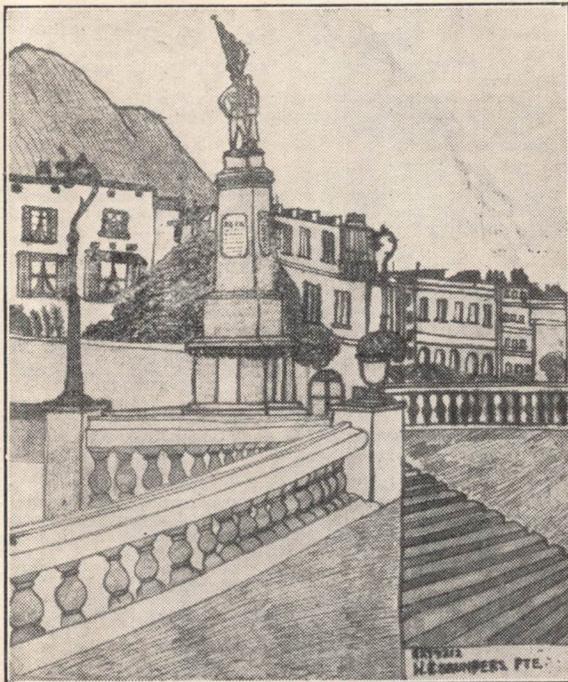
How much did "Willies" Wrist Watch cost him (not her)?

Have we a Pawnbroker in our midst?

Who caused Freddy's downfall—does Pug know?

Shall we hear from the "Skin Bashers" [of our 2nd Battalion one Christmas?

"E.L.F."



The Gibraltar War Memorial.

Drawn by 6279212 Pte. H. Saunders, 1st Bn. The Buffs.

D COMPANY.

Since our last notes nothing startling has happened, except that the Fleet has at last arrived, and the old saying "Wait till the Fleet comes in" at last dies out.

Owing to most of our players being employed away from barracks, we have had to rely on the company second XI. in a series of matches, all friendly.

The first of these was against B Company, which resulted in a goal-less draw, then we played the "police Juveniles," this resulted in a win 1-0, Thompson scoring our goal. Fletcher played a good game at right back, and also Foulger in goal.

The next game played was left-half Company versus right-half, this game was spoiled owing to the strong wind which generally prevails around that district, the left half Company won by 2-1, Priest scoring both goals, for the left half company.

Another match we played was against the battalion Signal Section and we compliment them on the good game they put up considering their numbers are greatly decreased now.

One or two other matches were played in which the following showed good form:—Thompson, Briggs, Bishop, Long, Goodsell, Pointer (Shaky or Joe).

The Harris Shield Bayonet Fencing took place again last week and the Company again won two points.

Shortly we commence the Company Shield Competition, and platoon teams are all ready in training, every platoon is determined to win it, so it is anticipated, that we will see some good matches and also find the new talent for our Company elevens for the forthcoming season.

Next week we commence our annual musketry course, and alas! we hope to shine much better than we did in last year's annual scramble, and we might add that the markers need not get a shake on this year, and if Rico's don't count this year, they counted for a few last year.

Things we want to know.

Who! when asked "what force drew the bullet down in its flight, replied "Force of gratitude?"

Who said don't those Yanks' uniform make them look like foreigners.

Who was the N.C.O. who put on his guard report that every man had, had a cup of hot meal?



The Barber's Shop, 1st Bn. The Buffs.

Officers' Training Corps' Certificate.

The results of the recent examination for Officers' Training Corps' Certificates have been officially announced yesterday. Certificate "A," which is a qualification for a commission in the Territorial Army and the Regular Army Reserve of Officers, was gained by 1,987 out of 2,817 candidates. In the successful list were 33 pupils from 13 schools unconnected with the Officers' Training Corps. Certificate "B," one of the qualifications of University candidates for a commission in the Regular Army, was gained by 133 out of 225 candidates.

Victor Hugo and Portland.

VICTOR Hugo's Portland-novel *L'homme qui rit* is published in English under the title of *By Order of the King*. He describes Portland as "that rugged mountain in the sea. The peninsula, looked at geometrically, presents the appearance of a bird's head, of which the bill is turned towards the ocean, the back of the head towards Weymouth; the isthmus (the Chesil Beach) is its neck."

Speaking of the local industry, stone-quarrying, he says "Portland exists now but for trade. Two hundred years ago its coasts were eaten away as a cliff: to-day, as a quarry. The pick bites meanly, the wave grandly; hence the diminution of beauty. To the magnificent ravages of the ocean have succeeded the measured strokes of men. The whole Rock has been subjected to an alteration which has completely changed its original appearance. The pickaxe has broken up and levelled those bristling rugged peaks which were once the fearful perches of the ossifrage. The summits exist no longer where the labbes and skuagulls used to flock together. The foxes, the badgers, the otters, and the martens have taken themselves off; on the cliffs of Portland, where there were at one time chamois, none remain. No more are seen, as during the reign of Elizabeth, those old unknown birds as large as hawks, who could cut an apple in two, but ate only the pips. The tide no longer throws up the whiskered seal, with its curled ears and sharp jaws, dragging itself on its nailless paws. On that Portland—nowadays so changed as scarcely to be recognised—the absence of forests precluded nightingales; but now the falcon, the swan, and the wild-goose have fled. The sheep of Portland, nowadays, are fat and have fine wool; the

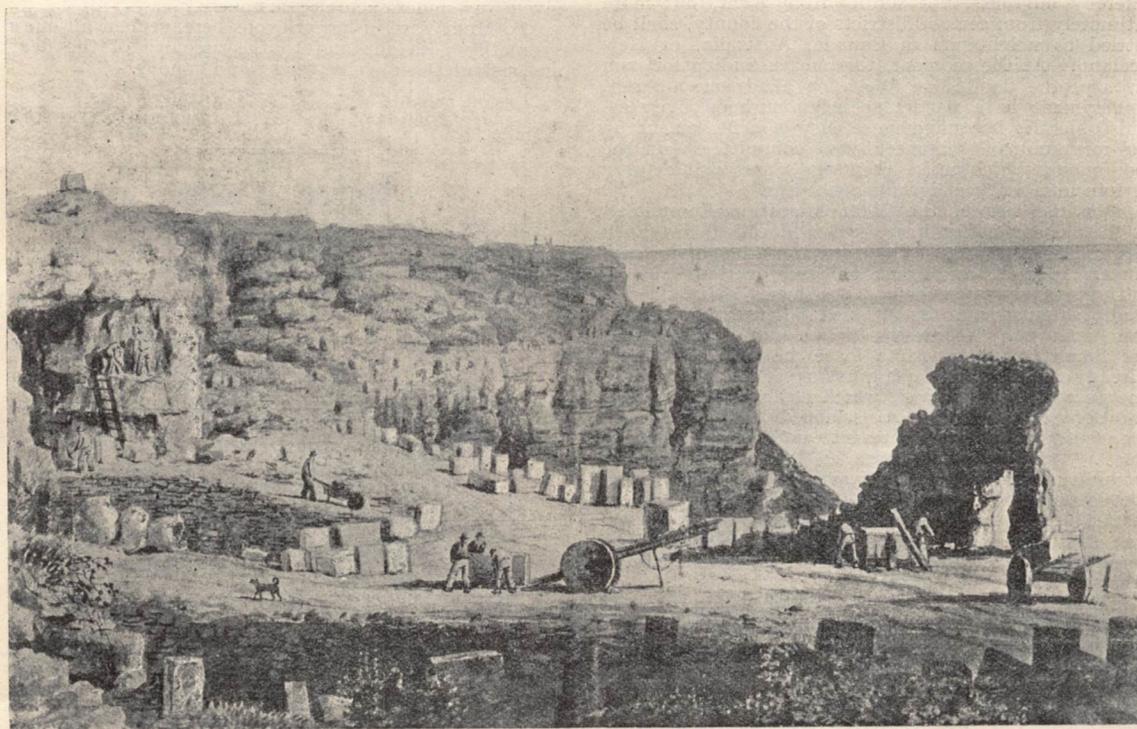
few scattered ewes which nibbled the grass there two centuries ago, were small and tough and coarse in the fleece, as became Celtic flocks brought there by garlic-eating shepherds who lived to a hundred, and who, at the distance of half-a-mile, could pierce a cuisass with their yard-long arrows. The Chesil Beach of to-day resembles in no particular the Chesil of the past, so much has it been disturbed by those furious winds which gnaw the very stones."

Victor Hugo refers to the old custom at Portland, and elsewhere, for smugglers who were captured to be swung on a chain on a gibbet on the seaboard, the victim's head being covered with pitch and the body wrapped and corded up in coarse canvas and left hanging and re-tarred from time to time.

He also alludes to the old lighthouses of England—the Beacons (there was one at Portland Bill)—with their "flaming pile of wood under an iron trellis, a brazier behind a railing, a head of hair flaring in the wind," and describes the fate of the sea-birds "who dashed against them attracted by the light and fell into the brazier where they could be seen struggling like black spirits in a hell, and at times they would fall back again between the railings upon the rock, red hot, smoking, lame, blind, like half-burnt flies out of a lamp."

Hugo mentions the following places in Portland:—Wakeham, Southwell, Weston, Easton, Chess Hill (Chesil), Church Hope, Folly Pier, Wirdle Pier, South Point (the Bill), and North Point (the Verne). It would have been disappointing if he had made no reference to the Verne!

H.P.



Stone-quarrying at Portland.

Kent Migration Committee.

Group Settlements.



THE county of Kent which for 20 years has had its own organization for directing and facilitating emigration, is now launching under the approval and recognition of the Government, bigger schemes, which it is hoped will contribute largely to a realization of the newer plans for group settlement. Arrangements at present are vague and indefinite, and must depend upon the support which the county gives to the movement, for though

the Government has now relieved the local body of the burden of giving or lending passage money, the new ideas for forming "Kents overseas" involve expenses which the old Kent Colonizing Association never dared to incur. The movement now is becoming a determined effort to mitigate unemployment by migration.

Two important lessons the Kent association has learnt among others. One is that only those who will work away from the towns of the Dominions should be helped to migrate; and the other, that failures are more often due to loneliness than to unsuitability. Out of the second of these arises the main inspiration of the new movement. It seeks to make arrangements whereby migrants, not simply from Kent, but more intimately from certain districts of the county, shall be settled as neighbours in Canada, Australia, or New Zealand. At the moment, this means finding for men of, say, the Tunbridge Wells or Maidstone district, employment in a particular neighbourhood overseas. This object is becoming more easy of achievement by the formation of "representative committees" in the Dominions, which make themselves responsible for a certain number of emigrants each year.

For the future, the Kent Migration Committee, as the old association has come to be called, has much bigger ideas. It has been urged by many of its supporters to purchase tracts of land overseas and to settle Kent men upon them. The suggestion is accepted gladly as an ideal to be attained, when the movement gains strength. Meanwhile, the less ambitious methods are found to meet with a large measure of success. Already there is quite a big colony of local settlers in one part of New Zealand, which has recently received additions from home. It is hoped to form similar groups elsewhere, but at present the flow of migrants is small. There are difficulties as to reception in the Dominions and there is a dearth of persons offering. The latter is probably due to stories of unemployment in the distant parts of the Empire. Those stories are true of the towns only, and the Kent Committee will, no doubt, remove those apprehensions when its preliminary organizing work is complete.

So far, only one branch of the committee has been formed, that in Tunbridge Wells. By the end of this month, a second one will have been founded in Maidstone, and later there will be others at Canterbury and Rochester. Each branch will then carry out the schemes of its own area and endeavour to keep together in the new country those who leave Kent under its auspices. The Government provides only passage money. The local body gives a loan to enable

settlers to make a beginning. This type of expenditure will continue when Kent is divided into its four areas, and there are also other expenses now that the organization is developing. New schemes for group settlement, therefore, will become possible only if the prospect of dealing with unemployment by migration appeals to the large body of residents in the districts where branches will be formed.

Dean Wace—An Appreciation.

Dear Mr. Editor,

As one who entertained very real regard and veneration for the Dean of Canterbury I feel constrained to say what great pleasure it has been to read in your last issue that most ably written and lifelike description of him. He was as you truly say a great Englishman and it was a great privilege to have known him. Those of us who served at Canterbury during the War and availed of Mrs. Wace's hospitality and generous welcome Sunday after Sunday, know only too well what a grand patriot the Dean was and how stirred he was by every phase of the War.

I can fully endorse the account in *The Times* obituary of Dr. Wace. "He was entertaining, delightful and stimulating in private conversation," and his "unfailing kindness and consideration in discourse with those far below his intellectual level with whom he would discuss as if there were no difference at all."

There is another side of which I shall always cherish the happiest memory and that is the inner home life at the Deanery. Such affection and devotion so cheerful and thoughtful of others and yet humbleness with it all. Who can forget the Dean's dogged pluck and patience when again and again he met with accidents at an age when most people would have given way under such circumstances?

To Mrs. Wace in her grievous bereavement all one's sympathy goes out and to the memory of the dear and gallant Dean every respect and honour.

Faithfully yours,
A. H. TYLDEN-PATTENSON.

March Winds.

LET March winds blow in a blust'ring way,
Through leafless trees when the sky is grey,
For Spring comes soon with its golden day,
When the woods, with tender green, are gay:
The buds are brown without the town!

O! Winter-tide is a grim old king,
Who rules the world with an iron hand,
Till the fairy prince, whose name is Spring,
Comes valiant-wise to free the land!
Old tyrant, though your force you muster,
Your end has come, for all your bluster!
The buds are brown without the town!
Youth wins at last, your reign is past!

The Earth, like a maiden all aghast
From a nightmare dream that held her fast,
Awakes to find Spring here at last
And laughs to think her fears are past:
The buds are brown without the town!

ERIC C. FRENCH.

Picture Framing and Art Depot.
B. & W. FISK-MOORE,
Canterbury.

Tel. 337.

The 2nd Battalion.



WITH the furlough season now over and the Battalion once more together, things have settled down to normal routine and the closing stages of the individual training season.

February and March have the reputation of being, we believe, the worst months in the Isle of Portland, and we must say the days have been distinctly chilly of late. We have firmly come to the conclusion that the Verne Citadel, perched on its lofty height is distinctly cold in the winter.

Towards the end of January, on the 25th, to be exact, D Company left the Verne for the Red Barracks in Weymouth, in order to allow more accommodation in the Citadel.

These barracks are situated on the South-Eastern side of Weymouth, near the sea and from all accounts are very acceptable.

Harris Shield Football matches have started, the competition being fought out on the League System. The first match was played on February 14th, between A Company and A Group Headquarter Wing and resulted in a win for the latter by three goals to nil.

A new item has appeared in our programme of work in the form of organised recreation on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m., under the supervision of Captain Howe. All available men have to turn out to take part in the different forms of sport provided. This is an excellent scheme and should work well.

Another Football ground has also sprung into existence on the Glacis outside the Citadel which now gives us two grounds.

On February 11th a Spring Bayonet Competition took place outside B Company, which proved very successful, many of the older hands turning out to take part. The competition was fought out on the Pool System. Lieut. Lister proved the winner, being unbeaten at the end.

On January 31st, the Regimental Hockey Team played the 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment in the 4th round of the Army Hockey Cup on the Naval Ground, Portland, but lost a thrilling match by four goals to five. This was very unfortunate as we really ought to have won. We will take the opportunity here to congratulate Lieut. Penlington and the team on their good performance in the Army Hockey Cup Competition.

Before we close these notes, we wish the very best of luck to Lieuts. Rowe, Mitchell and Crozier on their departure for West Africa. The best wishes of the Battalion go with them.

Army Hockey Cup.

INTER-AREA SERIES. SOUTHERN COMMAND.

2nd Battalion The Buffs v. The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

This match was played at Portland on January 31st, and after an evenly contested game, resulted in a win for the Berkshire Regiment 5-4.

The game started with a good run and shot by Home. The pressure by the Berkshires was followed by a good shot from Cartwright off a pass from Tutt, 1-0. Another goal followed quickly, Cartwright scoring after unsuccessful shots by Howe and Tutt, 2-0. Another run by Cartwright followed, his shot being well saved by the goal keeper.

The Berkshires now became dangerous, but Lee, at right back, proved a tower of strength. A bad foul in our circle gave away a penalty corner and later a good centre from outside right was put in by Carr of the Berkshires, 2-1. The Berkshires still pressed and missed an open goal by sending the ball over the top. During this period, Rice was performing heroic deeds at right-half.

On resuming after half-time, the Berkshires scored at once; quickly followed by an individual run and score by Cartwright, 3-1. The Berkshires again pressed and after a good save by Sidwell scored 3-2. Hoare, who was playing well, made a good run, but quickly the ball returned to one circle and a goal was scored against us, quickly followed by another, 3-4. We managed to equalise from a shot from Tutt, 4-4. The game now became fast and furious, all over the field, and five minutes from time, Cartwright just missed a goal, hitting the post, and two minutes from time the Berkshires scored their winning goal.

Lieuts. Taylor and Cooper, R.N., refereed.

The ground was very wet and difficult. Our team was very much out of practice. Tutt played well, but was pulled up several times and must remember that he will not be played in good class hockey if he is guilty of fouling, however unintentional. Pack did excellent work, but was inclined to do the work of the left-half and was not always back when required. Rice and Cartwright have already been mentioned, whilst Penlington, doing good work, was unfortunately below his usual form.

The team was as follows:—

Goal: Sgt. Sidwell; Backs, Pte. Lee and Cpl. Pack; Halves, Captain Rice, Lieut. Penlington, and Cpl. Beale; Forwards, Lt. Hoare, Cpl. Ward, Lieut. Cartwright, Capt. Howe and Lt./Cpl. Tutt.

CORPORALS' MESS.

Since writing last things have hummed a drop in the Mess. The Dear Old Bean has taken over President and everyone knows it! We now have a piano—but unfortunately the firm forgot to enclose a box of pianists, so we have to depend on Diamond for a tune. Of course we have the Admiral's famous "right-hand movement." Several members have started taking quinine as they say it turns one deaf!! In fact when Peett was giving us the Prelude in "B" natural (if possible) one bright spark was heard to murmur "Oh, death, where is thy sting?"

Just now we have got the painters in—everything upside down and out of place. Still never mind, we know now where to get some turps for our scabbards.

Everyone is looking forward to our Smoker at the end of the month. Roll on!

THE REVEREND.

Things we want to know.

Does Soss. get his full beer issue now the "Admiral" is away? How are the "Admiral's" lucky lads going to rise and shine without him?

Why don't they make the seats in the Pictures lower?

Stop—Look—Listen (In).

This is to introduce the Corporals' Mess, 2nd Battalion the Buffs, who, for the past year, have been hiding their light under a bushel. Well, wishing once more to come out into the limelight, and having plenty to say,—here goes.— Our mess still includes a few of the Old 'uns, but sad to relate, they are gradually going, "the Grand Old Man" Cack Farr, being the last up to date having completed 21 years. The well-known figure of the "Old Bean" otherwise "Beetle Nut," otherwise "Sunbeam, etc., etc., etc., can be seen buzzing around the Corporals' Mess once again, being the most noble Retriever of Dogs Legs. He, the aforesaid "Old Bean," etc., etc., etc., has also risen to the dizzy heights, etc., etc., of Mess President, and can be seen daily planning and measuring the size of the mess, so that fresh notices, hand-bills, orders, texts, and lists with his marvellous signature thereon inscribed, may have room to breathe. The Marker passed the remark, "he's at it again, all over the Blotter practising, "By Order," "By Order" and won't give in until it looks impressive." By the way I forgot to give his name, he, the aforesaid Old Bean, is none other than the horrible red-headed wretch who is responsible for the Pets' Corner, the world-famous and renowned Lt./Cpl. O. Stocken (spelt en, not ing).

Tug Wilson is still with us, also Nass Hassan, Buffy Ward, Ginger Hodges, Robbo, Bert Petley, Ted Pack, Ginty McGahan and Old Chalic Croucher, who alone is a star turn, his jokes keeping us all in roars

of laughter, being so original (in Queen Anne's time). We have now become the proud possessors of a piano. When Diamond is not here the only thing required is a handle. Our latest tune is "Hughie went to Weymouth but she didn't say where," and the Old Bean got quite wild about it. Buffy Ward still thinks he is slowly pegging out, but I think he will live for a good few more pints yet. Sunbeam and the Admiral are still keeping regular attendance over the Wet, as they find that Tonsil-Varnish is necessary for the good of their health. Nass Hassam has at last tied the knot, and can still be seen pottering around the mess, about as lively as a lame duck with the toothache. Ginger Maplesden is quite willing to sing to all and sundry, but of course, the offer was overlooked, he said it was jealousy and pointed to the "Golden Text for February." We have also another addition to the mess, a beautiful inlaid, oak-backed, "Seniority Roll," which is the pride and joy of the mess president. I am very sorry, editor, I shall have to chuck-it, I thought it would happen, Ginger is going to sing.

THE ADMIRAL.

A COMPANY.

Weapon Training is in full swing at present and will continue until the 29th. The weather does not favour training, and its "carry on" with plenty of "quickness" to combat the extreme cold which is being experienced. Organized Recreational Training commenced last Tuesday, and by reports will be a great success. The hours spent during the week in recreation, give opportunity for the selection of "Starters" in various sports. Already we have several Young Arthurs ear-marked as coming champions.

L/C. Towerzy (late "A" Company) who was with us out East, is now in "H.O." Wing, having re-enlisted. He has received a letter from Mr. King (late Company Clerk during our tour abroad) who is doing very well in the printing line, and wishes to be remembered to all the boys. It may be added that Mr. King, in the capacity of Company Clerk, always did his best for the boys.

Regarding the "Old Boys" who have left "A" Company for Civilian Life, letters from these would be very welcome, as extracts will be published under A Company notes, and this I feel sure will be appreciated by all who have left us. Please address letters to C.S.M. Sayer.

Sgt. Smith has joined us from the M.P.S.C. and we wish him a happy time with us. He is by the way, an old 2nd Battalion N.C.O. Sgt. Bigg has relieved Sgt. Deeks as Provost Sgt., and L/C. Bartley has returned to duty from Company Clerk, being relieved by Pte. Bean.

Congratulations to Lt. A. G. C. Stainforth, M.C., (who is O/i/c Education) and Cpl. Kelsey on their obtaining a Distinguished at the School of Education, Shorncliffe. The application of the knowledge gained at this school to the men is carried out by a very practical organization, which enables the N.C.O. Instructor to make the lesson he is imparting, instructive and interesting.

C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Jones are to be congratulated on the birth of a fine son. May he turn out as good a sportsman as his Dad.

The Company did well in the Battalion Cross Country Run Trial, getting ten men in out of the first thirty.

Competition for the Harris Shield has commenced, and unfortunately "A" Company lost to "H.O." Wing "A" Group in the first round of the football, the score being 3—Nil. A fuller account of this match appears under 2nd Battalion Notes.

Capt. Field is away on leave, Lt. E. F. Hall is attached to "C" Company, and Capt. E. B. Backhouse is away on duty. Lt. Knocker is attached to "D" Company at Red Barracks, Weymouth. Lt. A. G. C. Stainforth, M.C., is O.C. Company at present with Lt. D. H. Hamill-Stewart 2nd in command.

Civilians (late A Company) please do not forget the letters requested.

A.B. 70.

THE BAND.

The Band is still going strong and living up to its reputation. On the 3rd of February the Band rendered a programme in the Weymouth Pavilion which was enthusiastically received. We are also playing at the Weymouth Pavilion again on the 17th.

Football.

On the 12th the boys played the Christian Lads' Association on our own ground. It was a very keenly contested game but our boys won by three goals to Nil. The goals were scored by Harper, Ashton and Watts. The Band and Drums forming "A" Group, played "A" Company in the Harris Shield Match. Our team showed splendid form, and had an easy win by three clear goals. The goals were scored by Cpl. Martin, Bds. Day and Maddle. We hope our success in the Harris Shield will continue.

Things we want to know.

Whether a certain Corporal is still feeling hungry after his scanty Tea consisting of Two Dixies of Tea, four loaves of Bread, a plate of Jam, and two plates of Butter. Was he feeling snakey?

Whether a certain Bandsman still reads his texts every night before going to bed?

Also whether the Provost Sergeant had anything to say on the matter. The reading of the Texts, by the way, was by fire-light after "Lights Out."

SEMIQUAVER.

HEAD-QUARTER WING.

There has not been very much sport this month, but no doubt next month when the Harris Shield is in full swing there will be plenty to relate.

Owing to the encouragement of Captain Haymen and the efforts of L/Cpl. Lendrin, we have got two Rugger teams on the go, and the general opinion is that they prefer Rugger to Soccer. We played D Company and won by 3 points to nil. We did not play a full team as several of our first team players were on duty. Lendrin is flourishing challenges to all and sundry so no doubt more will be heard of Rugger next month.

Congratulations to Cpl. Diamond on obtaining a "D" at the School of Education, Shorncliffe. L/Cpl. Hewitt has gone to study at Kneller Hall where we wish him every success. Sgt. Ross, M.M., Sgt. Buxton, M.M., Cpl. Beale and Cpl. Coombes go to Netheravon on a Machine Gun Course and we also wish them every success.

O.S.

Things we want to know.

Who was the N.C.O. who went on parade with odd boots on and has he got wireless eyes?

Why does Clara Reynold's young lady Lil always sing "On the shores of Minnetouka"; does she mean "Chesil Beach."

O.S.

Roll of Work.

Occupants of Bunk :—

Pte. R. Freeman, i/c Bunk.

Pte. F. Taylor.

1. Beds to be made up before dinner-time and not to be made down again before 12.45 p.m.
2. No talking, singing, or dancing after*** "3 for Boys."
3. On no account are "Wingers" to be brought in the Bunk.
4. Spitting all over the floor is prohibited.
5. The wash-basin is for washing in and no other purposes.
6. The cleaning of the Bunk must be abided with, the work being distributed in the following manner :—

Sweeping, dry-scrubbing and wet scrubbing floor	Pte. Taylor
Cleaning fireplace	"
Coal boxes, shovels, etc.	"
Cleaning windows	"
Dusting room	"
Cleaning wash-basin and conveying water	"
Brassknobs on door and windows	"
Whitewashing	"
Coal carrying	"
Lighting fire	"
Whitening doorstep	"
Scrubbing paintwork	"
Tidying room in general	"
Blackleading grate	"
Feeding the cat	"
Scrubbing tables, forms and chairs	"
Cleaning eating utensils twice daily	"
Massaging Frank Melvin's knee caps	"
7. The practice of bringing the steam roller from the square to the Bunk for the purpose of cracking nuts must cease forthwith.

R. FREEMAN, Pte.

In Charge of Bunk.

M.G. PLATOON.

Not many matches have been played this month. The Crank-scored 3 goals and Parker 1. Another match was played against the Signallers and we again won 1—0. Paddy was again the goalscorer.

B Group played A Group and a very fast and exciting game was witnessed, which resulted in a draw 2—2. Our first goal was accidentally put in by one of their side in trying to clear from a corner. Jazz Atkins headed our other goal in from a centre from Gillie Godden. Clara Reynolds has the making of a very good goalie which is very fortunate for us as Galpin, our old goalie has been discharged on compassionate grounds.

We extend our sympathy to him on losing his sister who was a "flu" victim, and wish him every success in the future in his efforts to help his parents.

Our first match of the Harris Shield takes place on Saturday against D Company and it will probably be a very even and fast game.

O.S.

Pets' Corner.

There have been great happenings this month, the pets are almost unmanageable.

Poor old Pip was caught napping this week for a 5/- box of chocolates. We strongly advise him to learn a few more tips on football before he starts betting with young ladies. We hear he is in doubt as to whom he admires most, Cow Annie or Aggie Westham, but we feel sure it is the Duchess, as he was seen with her a week or so back. Is it her striking figure that pleases him? We also know now why he is looking so well, as his young lady feeds him on Enos and Cinnamon. No wonder he is always out. Squeak's engagement was short and sweet as it is nearly at an end. This does not surprise us, as he usually is in love with a different one every month. At present it is a Wyke Lady about 14½ years old. Does he believe in the old saying over 9 and under 90? Does he ever pine for his Minnie or his 3/24?

Wilfred is up to his larks again, this time on top of a bus at night. He sat himself down beside a sweet young thing of 12 years of age and told her he wished the journey was 12 miles instead of 5. I wonder why? We hear he is studying women's dresses as he was seen buying stockings and camisoles in Woolworth's. Did they fit the young lady he was buying them for and how did he know the size to get? Last Saturday night he went on the spree with Snaky Walters and that night

he shouted out in his sleep, "Beer, Glorious Beer," so I suppose it was a very quiet evening. We hear that Wilfred's Louie nearly bit one of his ears off when she heard about it. He also "paid his respects" to the Duchess of Weymouth in company with Squeak and Fairy Foster. Wilfred and Squeak went out on their own one night, to celebrate the latter's birthday and had "one over the eight" when they were met by their loved ones, Louie and Vida. Did they manage to pass it off alright and had Wilfred any cachous handy? Louie evidently told Wilf. off, so, to shew his independence, he took 18 stone Doris to the Jubilee Hall.

Angeline has given up the idea of controlling the pets with despair and is mostly seen about with Long John whose gifts were fully described last month. A few words might not be amiss to describe his appearance. He is long and thin with a swan-like neck and ant-like waist and large feet, altogether a handsome youth with a waist any woman would envy. It was difficult to say which impressed the girls most, Long John's striking figure or Angeline's spats and cane. Some offensive creature sent Angeline a postcard which had on it "The Order of Merit for drinking 10,804,004 pints." This of course is absurd, as everyone knows he does not drink anything stronger than rum. What will his dear Pearl say if she reads it? Will it be, "disappointed, all is finished."

Percy, the Pigeon, has been fairly quiet lately until Squeak and Wilfred invited him out with them to Weymouth. They met a sweet young thing named Kitty who so fascinated him that she made him feel all over alike, and he is itching to see her again.

Aunt Emma is beginning to feel girlish again as she was seen using a Plush Powder Puff but she would not tell us what sort of Powder she used or where she put it.

Wopski is very careful when he goes out with his bird, Drainpipe Liz, because she sent him a postcard and on it was "I have left undone those things which I ought to have done," and was he pleased at receiving it?

Uncle Dick has now joined the A.E.C. as he was seen giving a girl of 12 lessons on the way of the World; and did he learn her anything or did she give him a few tips? What has poor Hilda done, being left in the cold, didn't he like the flowers she sent him?

Clara is now in her second childhood as she was seen wearing a bib the other morning. Does she wear it on Tuesday nights over her lovely suit of livery on Mess Duty?

Rockbinder is now feeling terribly cut up and he refuses to have any more sprat suppers, as his young lady, Salvation Mary, walked off with two skates and left him. Poor old Rock had been earning money all the week on "Housey" "Ousey" to take her to the Jubilee Hall.

Snaky walked out with a fairy-like creature of 20 stone, who took him home and gave him a lovely sprat supper with no salt on it.

Fairy Foster took a nice young porpouse to Rodwell and nearly missed the 10.5 train. Why was he so pushed: perhaps the Pets can give a reason. Has he made it up with his old flame Aggie Weston, we hope so because she is a proper Lidly, so respectable like. Did he wait outside the Jubilee Hall for his girl to go in first so that he would not have to pay and was he rumbled?

The Pets have formed an Anti-Workers' Cabinet. The Cabinet is composed as follows:—

King : Roscoe Arbuckle, M.M.	Prime Minister.
P. C. 99 Lendrin,	Lord Chancellor.
Viscount White,	Secretary of State for India.
Viscount Godden,	Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
Viscount Coly,	Secretary for War.
Lord Wellard,	Home Secretary.
Rt. Hon. Hart,	Leader of Opposition.
Duke Austen,	Master of Horse? Mules.
Marquis Atkins,	Lord Privy Seal.
Baron Walls,	Controller of Rocks and Docks.
Earl Follington,	Controller of Parliamentary Pets.
Countess Angeline of Stocken,	Lady-in-Waiting (what for).
Lady Clara Reynolds,	

O.S.

In Ireland now.

BY CAPT. R. M. WATSON, LATE THE BUFFS.

AFTER an absence of five years, it was my lot to revisit the land of my birth. It gives an Irishman a thrill on landing to hear the brogue around him and see the slow haphazard efforts of his countrymen to carry out their various duties. One innovation is the introduction of customs officials which consisted of two untidy unshaven youths who sheepishly asked travellers if they had anything to declare. One of them sported a kind of yachting cap but otherwise they were clad in mufti.

Just as the train was leaving the station an unkempt Irishman, about 6 ft. 3 in height, jumped into the carriage and began talking to himself and laughing at what he had said. After a quarter of an hour there was a pause and he asked me "if I would be after lending him a cigarette." I complied with his request for a loan though I doubted that I would recover either capital or interest. I soon regretted my generosity. My companion began by purring, then he made a noise like a man grooming a horse and finally bellowed like a bull. This continued for half an hour, when the train stopped at a station and my sonorous friend left the carriage only to continue on the platform. But if he thought to awaken the curiosity of the crowd at the station, he was sadly mistaken.

My local town, a large one in the South, has not changed during the last quarter of a century, except that the streets are in a rather worse condition than before. The same loafers support the walls of the many public houses and apparently never do a stroke of work, but manage to acquire the wherewithal to satisfy their bibacious tastes and keep their noses at the right tint.

One of the peculiarities, and there are many, of the Irish Free State Government, is to change everything. What was the Constabulary is now called the Civic guard; their uniform was dark green, it is now dark blue. A few drops of rain, however, changes it to its former colour. The National Army has a uniform of field grey which also changes colour if allowed to remain in the rain for a little time, but in this case it becomes khaki: as the French proverb says "Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose." The familiar red pillar box is now green but the V.R. or G.R. remains. I believe however, that this is due to economy as these letters will come in quite handy when a Republic is declared as they will then signify Valera Rex or Griffiths Rex. No one could imagine an Irish Republic without a King. The Civic Guard do not look so smart nor are as efficient as their predecessors. The Army is lamentable. I witnessed a leave party waiting to entrain and I was reminded of a batch of Boche prisoners during the battle of the Somme. The officers are on a par with the "Reckless Reggies of the Regent Palace." Their headdress consists of soft hats pulled well back over the head and the monotony of their uniform is relieved by the bright hues of their socks. During January the public were informed that the Government were demobilizing the army at a record speed, and during the first week of February Irishmen were not surprised to see their Government advertising for four thousand recruits.

Present-day politics in Ireland are simple. Those of the "haves" and those of the "have-nots." The former pray and hope for a Union with England and live in dread of a Republic. Reverse the process and you have the hopes and fears of the "have-nots."

Arrangements for 1924.

When you have read these on page 85, please notify the Secretary, The Past and Present Association, The Buffs, those at which you hope to be present. Publication of your name in 'The Dragon' will attract your friends.

Short articles, sketches, black and white drawings and snapshots are always welcome for "The Dragon."

Regimental Balance Sheets.

I. THE PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.							
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.				
Unpresented cheques		26	16	0	£100 5% War Loan 1929/47	100	10	0			
Balance credit	628	7	3½		£100 3½% Conversion Loan	77	10	0			
					Cash at Lloyd's Bank ...	463	5	11			
					Cash at Cox and Co. ...	13	8	0			
					Cash in hands of Treasurer	0	9	4½			
							477	3	3½		
									£655	3	3½

Struck on 30th November, 1923 : audited and certified correct by MR. A. J. LANCASTER.

II. THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.							
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.				
Unpresented cheques		6	0	0	£500 5% Natl. War Bonds						
Balance credit	4007	9	11		1928, 3rd series ...	528	15	0			
					£450 5% Natl. War Bonds						
					1928, 2nd series ...	475	17	6			
					£1,950 5% War Loan 1929/						
					47	1959	15	0			
					£100 5½% Treasury Bonds						
					1930	104	5	0			
					£138 L.M. Scottish Ry. 4%						
					Preference Stock ...	114	11	0			
					£468 City of Quebec 3½%						
					Con. Reg. Stock ...	343	19	2			
					Cash at Cox and Co. ...	200	17	10			
					Cash at Lloyd's Bank ...	285	9	5			
							486	7	3		
									£4013	9	11

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III. "THE DRAGON."

Sundry Creditors—				Sundry Debtors—									
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.						
Subscribers	94	4	6	Agents	15	4	8						
Advertisers	6	12	4	Advertisers	37	12	0						
Printers and stationers ...	63	19	10	1st Battalion	40	0	0						
							92	16	8				
Unpresented cheque			164	16	7	Cash at Barclay's Bank	374	13	6				
Balance credit			1	0	0	Cash in hand	0	17	6				
									375	11	0		
											£468	7	8

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NOTE.—The Balance Sheet of the Regimental Fund, the 3rd Battalion Fund, and the Cottage Homes will be published next month.

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 WOOLWICH—(and for Colchester, Shoeburyness and Warley)—51 Artillery Place, S.E. 18.
 MALTA—311 Strada Reale and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Right Marina, Valletta.
 GIBRALTAR—Alameda.
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Bolshevism. (Continued.)

By ERIC C. FRENCH.

I BROUGHT my previous article to a close at the period of the Allied blockade of Russian ports and the peasant's attitude of passive resistance.

At the end of 1919 the Allies ceased active hostilities and lifted the blockade, whilst maintaining what amounted to a boycott of Russian trade.

Lenin was free to develop, from the chaos of revolution, some form of government. By terrorism he had subdued the people, by confiscation obtained control of the wealth of the country; it now remained to construct a system by which he could wield the power he had gained. Emphasis must be laid upon the fact that Lenin was the strong man behind the Bolshevik movement. It was to him the party looked for guidance and control. Without his foresight and cunning ability it is doubtful if the Revolution would ever have got beyond the stage of a remote possibility. His patient organization, mastery of detail and ability to seize every opportunity gave the movement its impetus along the desired lines. As subordinates, Lenin's associates were the men for his purpose, willing to follow his lead, prepared to go to any length to attain their end.

A central committee was formed; the head, and one might justly say the body, of which was Lenin, since he and he alone dictated the course of action. The country was divided into provinces and districts, over which a picked agent of the central committee was placed as Governor. Absolute power was granted, subject only to the central committee from whom he received his orders. In each district a minor committee, picked by the Governor from men known to be adherents of the Bolshevik government, was formed. In this manner, Lenin's dictates were carried out. They did not admit of any question by subordinates, blind obedience was enforced: even in the central committee, discussion was not allowed. A hint of free thought, a suspicion of mutiny in any shape or form, was barbarously punished. Lenin handled his weapon of terrorism with ghastly effect.

Despite the state of affairs in Russia, there were not wanting in this country champions of their cause. Negotiations were going on between Mr. O'Grady and Mr. Wise, and M. Litvinoff at Copenhagen. Whether as a result of these negotiations, or not, I cannot say, but in May, 1920, M. Krassin and M. Klishko came to London.

Meanwhile the countries of Europe were flooded with Bolshevik literature and propaganda; emissaries in India, Egypt and other of our countries, were preaching revolt against the "forces of tyranny." Lenin hoped by these means to bring about an international revolution, and huge sums of money were employed for this purpose.

In March, 1921, a trade agreement was signed by Sir Robert Horne and M. Krassin, this agreement was held to constitute de facto recognition. In the face of this agreement, propaganda on the north-west frontier of India was carried on. Other acts of bad faith forced Lord Curzon to issue an ultimatum, and Krassin returned to Moscow. After a delay his place was taken by M. Rakovsky.

Following on the death of Lenin came the recognition of Soviet Russia.

Nearly every newspaper in the Kingdom has published conflicting information about the state of Russia to-day. From this mass of mis-statement, several facts stand out clearly.

(1) General dissatisfaction is felt with the present form of Government in Russia.

(2) Industrial and agricultural Russia is in a pitiable state of chaos.

(3) The people as a whole are anti-Bolshevist and would welcome the return of the old order.

Since the death of Lenin there have been constant splits in the Government, attempts to smoothe over the difficulties have proved unavailing. There is no one man sufficiently strong to impose his will on the remainder as did Lenin.

After the revolution, the Central Committee closed many of the factories in the smaller towns, these factories have remained idle ever since. Production in the remainder has been cut down to the minimum necessary to supply the needs of the population. A vast sum of money would be required to set industrial Russia on her feet again. The transport of the country is disorganised, the rolling-stock on the railways in a hopeless state of disrepair. Worthless note issues, debased and spurious coinage, render almost insuperable the difficulty of the financial question. In agricultural districts, crops only sufficient for the district in which they are raised, are produced. The working-classes are so poor that they can only afford to buy the barest necessities of life. In many cases they are forced to live upon the chance food with which wild nature provides them.

The people of Russia, to-day, are in far worse case than they were under the Tsarist regime. In the main, an ignorant people, to them the happening of the present is all important; the past is past, the future in the hand of God. They blame their present rulers for the misery of Russia. Could leaders of ability be found, a counter-revolution must succeed.

One other fact is clear, wherever the working-man is faced with high cost of living, un-employment and a fluctuating wage, Bolshevik propaganda is an increasing source of danger. Approached with a specious tale of the wealth which by 'right' is his, plausible plans for the re-construction of the state on a basis of social equality and control of industry by the workers, in short the doctrines of Bolshevism, let him look to what a pass such doctrines have brought Russia. Let him tighten his belt until constitutional methods can find a remedy for the evils under which he labours. His reward will not long be withheld.

Wearing of Spurs.

The King's Regulations have been amended so as to provide that spurs will be worn in full dress and service dress by all general officers, staff officers, officers of mounted services, field officers permanently in command of companies and infantry. Spurs will also be worn in mess dress, undress, and at levees and courts when Wellington boots are worn, by all general officers, staff officers, officers of mounted services and field officers of all services.

Royal Corps of Signals.

First appointments as second lieutenants to the Royal Corps of Signals will in future be made from the Royal Military Academy, Royal Military College, and approved Universities. But until such time as sufficient candidates are forthcoming from these sources to complete the establishment, subaltern officers with not more than four years' service may attend qualifying signal courses with a view to transfer to the Corps of Signals. Such officers will be required to pass the qualifying course successfully, and be seconded to the Corps for two years before they can be transferred. All officers now seconded to the Corps will remain seconded with a view to eventual transfer to the permanent establishment.

Some Reminiscences (Continued)

BY COLONEL R. S. M. MOODY, C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

A CAREFULLY selected Aldershot General had recently come to South Africa to command the troops. His name was the Hon. Something Theisger, but very soon after arrival he inherited the title of Lord Chelmsford.

This officer instituted enormous alterations in tactics and drill. Battalions now extended and might be observed moving over the veldt in long and quite irregular lines. In fact what we termed "loose drill" became the vogue, but traditions die hard, and The Buffs at any rate always endeavoured to end up their "drill of attack" by a change in rigid and accurate line, which would have been quite impossible had casualties occurred. These apparently were not to be taken into consideration, for Chelmsford's decree went forth that Sections of fours were to be permanent and that the men were to sleep, eat, work, go on sentry and fall in always the same four together. Moreover these fours were to be as far as possible personal chums and comrades, so a terrible blow was struck to the comely appearance of a battalion on parade for the companies were no longer sized except for ceremonial parades.

As far as I can recollect it was about October, 1878, that the garrisons of Pietermaritzburg and other places broke up and field columns were formed by the troops along the Zulu border.

The chief of these was at Helpmakaar near Rorkes Drift, where Chelmsford had his Head Quarters. The infantry of this column consisted of the two battalions 24th regiment and several volunteer corps.

Our Column was at Thring's Post and the Lower Tugela where, bit by bit, collected The Buffs, 99th regiment, some volunteers and a Naval Brigade. Colonel Pearson commanded this party and Parnell had the battalion.

Our women and children were despatched (I think) to Durban, but the full band and drums, including the smallest boys, took the field with the fighting men.

Very soon after arrival at Thring's Post the Mauritius detachment marched in under the command of no less a personage than Tish. It had been nearly three years away and there had been a good many changes amongst officers but the men were the same as those that started from Mullingar early in 1876, because the 2nd Battalion had been raised in 1857-8, and composed of men enlisted for 21 years, so nearly all had the same amount of service and were now doing an extra year on account of war. It was a delightful re-union and a great day for the battalion. I have said that the women and children had gone to Durban but there was one exception. My old friend, Julius Backhouse had met a lady while still in Ireland and had persuaded her to come out to him to Mauritius, and the bride now came cheerfully up to Thring's Post with the detachment and took up her quarters in the one and only house, but of course she had to clear out when we moved on.

Soon after our arrival at this post, where the battalion remained till the end of the year, the first flogging took place. It was not a pretty sight but one which all were compelled to witness. I forget the crime but the wretched young culprit screamed like a girl and so disgusted everybody that, though I saw many floggings afterwards, I never again heard a whimper.

When the battalion took the field there had been a general jail delivery from the military prison (detention barracks now-a-days) so all our insubordinate young friends were with us again, but though they apparently enjoyed prison life they had a horror of the Cat and were in consequence very quiet and well-behaved. In the middle of December, one of the greatest misfortunes of my life occurred, the saddest up to that date.

Skyllarking early one morning on horseback with Lewis and Middleton I galloped my Orange Free State horse into an ant-bear hole. These are plentiful in some parts of Natal and the local horses learn to avoid them. I crashed badly, was unconscious for hours and very ill when I came to myself, and so it came about that I had to leave my regiment just as it was about to cross the frontier, be lugged only half alive down to Durban and hoisted on to a ship bound for England. For this reason I regret I have no reminiscences of Inyezane nor of the defence of Ekowe, and I fear that those who have patiently followed these reminiscences in the hope of coming to something interesting at last will be grievously disappointed. However the editor says I am to go on.

The long voyage home, for I was in a slow ship, remade a semi-corpse into a passable soldier and very soon after arrival in England I was able, with a little difficulty to square the war office and subsequent medical board and so return almost at once. I arrived in Durban just after Ekowe had been relieved and started from there for the Lower Tugela in command of a mixed draft for various corps stationed at that place.

It was a hot march and I had some difficulty in keeping my men in the shade when they bathed, when this precaution was not taken bodies became so blistered that equipment could not be carried. Several new regiments were at this time almost put out of action from this cause.

At Compensation Flats, one of our halting places, there is a dull sluggish river bordered by a few trees, under one of which I went off to bathe alone, while the men were busy settling in. After I had enjoyed a swim and so on I was returning to my commands when I met a white man, who had come to warn me not to let the men go into deep water as the stream was full of aligators particularly just by that tree said the man, pointing to the place I had just come out of.

I rejoined my battalion in the Tugela to find that some few had died, including Captain Williams, Lieuts. Evelyn and Mason and nearly all the boys, in fact all the younger ones except Hatton and Cornelius.

If the heroes of the late war could be cast back, so to speak with the Zulu Campaign, the things that would strike them most would be the sameness of the rations and the utter absence of any attempt to prevent disease. Bully beef and biscuits, with occasional rum and cocoa, never varied, and Doctors cured all the sick who were curable but did nothing in the preventative line so that many hundreds died of fever, dysentery, etc., who would never have sickened now-a-days.

Our old Colonel had gone home sick but with a C.B. and a K.C.M.G. to his credit and he was greatly fêted and made much of in England; a fitting ending to a period of eleven years in command.

Lieut.-Colonel Henry Parnell, also now a C.B., succeeded to his place in the battalion.

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ROUND ABOUT

BY
THE TRAMP



THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. The expected duly happened and the Labour Government has met The House of Commons and the first fire of questions.

There must be something rather fascinating about Government Offices the way people fall over each other to get into them. My recollection of one is not very thrilling although it was interesting to see that the popular notion about the under-worked civil servant did not in the least apply to the department which I temporarily assisted in a humble way.

* * * *

THE STRIKE. As I write, one Strike has been "Settled" and it is no longer necessary to travel thirty miles or so a day in a Motor Charabanc. There is something delightfully unusual about embarking on a railway journey of some distance with a doubt as to when, if ever, you will reach your destination.

I travelled in a train which ran beautifully to time up to a certain point and then the Fireman remembered it was tea time or that he had a pal in the place and we waited an hour. That is the sort of thing that endears the public worker to the poor old long-suffering public. A phenomenon worth noting is the complacency with which the average man accepts all these upheavals. In some compartments and in the clubs choleric old gentlemen frothed with indignation at it all, but, generally speaking, it was regarded as a sort of "Darn Nuisance" just as the war, even at its worst, was regarded by those whose job lay in the thick of it.

* * * *

AN EXPLODED FALLACY. Many of my friends have long assured me that nobody wants to hear about or read about the war in these days.

There were stories of publishers who refused excellent war books by as yet unknown writers because they felt that the public was "Sick of the War." Well, one thing that the production of "Havoc" at the Haymarket Theatre has done is to give the lie to that statement. Few plays recently have been so enthusiastically received and so eulogistically noticed by the critics as Harry Wall's brilliant study of the early months of 1918 in so far as they affected some eight or ten people. The story is good, even if the probability of a certain character's behaviour is not strong. The war scenes are written with sincerity and humour and many a chord of memory was struck by the natural and lifelike dialogue of the soldier characters.

* * * *

A SPECIAL MERIT—THE ACTING. And, what is refreshing, the production is carefully studied; the uniforms, equipment and scenery have obviously been scrutinised by someone who had been with a battalion in the line.

Two performances stand out in my mind. Richard Bird as the Babe, a young subaltern, and Henry Kendall as the other subaltern are delightful, never too heroic or sloppy. There is a Sergeant-Major who, though a bit broadly drawn, relieves the dramatic tension successfully and an officer's mess servant who is an everlasting joy. Then, and by no means least, a Signalling Corporal and his henchman, Private Jones, were the real thing. Decidedly a play to see and convincing proof that if there is really good writing and acting a war play can draw even in this year of grace.

NOVEL OF THE WAR. For the reasons already mentioned, there must be many novels of the war which might see the light of day and bring profit to publishers who can overcome their timidity. Looking back, there are about three good war novels: "Peter Jackson" by Gilbert Frankau, "The Way of Revelation" by Wilfred Ewart, and "Tell England" by Ernest Raymond. There is a lot of ground yet to be covered and one can but hope that we shall yet see the masterpiece of the war. There is plenty of room for it and, I believe, a real demand.

* * * *

A MEETING AND A COINCIDENCE. After seeing "Havoc" the other night, I was swaying westward in my usual position in the tube at the end of a strap—when I saw next to me a face I thought I knew. I hesitated in case I might be wrong and then as one does, took courage and spoke.

I was right and met after about seven years, one whom 2nd Battalion men who were in Salonika, will remember as Sergeant Braley. It was Braley who used to rock the crazy marquee on the slopes above Baldza when he mimicked officers and others without fear or favour at Company Concerts, and it was Braley who often kept a very straight face when he was Superintending the Solemn rites of a guest night in the Mess. He was looking very fit and told me that he runs a laundry business near Shepherd's Bush.

The coincidence lies in the fact that he also had been to "Havoc" that night.

* * * *

"LONDON CHILDREN." I went during my lunch hour the other day to All Hallows' Church, Lombard Street, and heard a brief, but most interesting talk on the children of London by Mr. Pett Ridge, the well known novelist. He was very optimistic about the life of a *Gamin* and considered that in many ways the London child had great advantages over the country child, especially in the respect that he is never bored; something is always happening in the city. He described their ingenuity in evading the Law as "A Gift," and mentioned the undramatic character of the Children's Courts. Here youthful offenders are dealt with, much to the disappointment very often of the urchin who has a great respect for the majesty of the Law and dislikes the "Afternoon Reception" air about a Children's Court.

* * * *

THE POPLAR FATHERS. A propos of a statement that the mothers were as a rule devoted to their children especially in the years before they could fend for themselves, he mentioned that the fathers were sometimes not quite so admirable and gave as an example one father in Poplar who took a somewhat restricted view of his responsibilities. He told the lecturer that he didn't believe in interfering in the home so he cleaned the outsides of the windows once a week and gave the boys the strap once a fortnight.

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NEWS WANTED.

Dear Sir,

As one who reads *The Dragon* from cover to imprint, I have always felt a little disappointment at the small amount of space devoted to the news of the doings of officers. We hear all about the Sergeants' and Corporals' Mess, the companies, the band, and the machine gunners, etc., but very little about the doings of officers.

Could not arrangements be made for officers' mess news to be a regular feature in the future.

Yours, etc.,

RETIREE PAY.

REGIMENTAL MESSES.

Dear Sir,

I have read the article by Colonel Daughlish with considerable interest, and would like to express the hope that a series of articles may be published in *The Dragon* relating to the plate in the hands of the 1st and 2nd Battalions and the Depot: perhaps the respective Mess Presidents might be persuaded to write these for you.

Yours, etc.,

VETERI FRONDESCIT HONORE.

A PROTEST.

Dear Sir,

I suggest that a bit of a fight be put up against the nearly invariable practice of putting the name of The Regiment in inverted commas?

This is practically always done in Kentish newspapers, including all announcements re—4th Battalion, and I now see it is even so on the recruiting posters.

I once heard two subalterns of another Regiment discussing the matter, and one said "Oh! It is only a nickname. They are called "The Buffs" because, once, in a very tight corner during the Peninsular War, they stripped off their clothes and fought naked. When the Duke of Wellington heard of it he said "Ah! Stripped to the buff. Very good. Very good!" A large number of people, of course, will always think it a nickname, but I do think our own county newspapers should know better,

Grove House,

Garlinge,

Nr. Westgate-on-Sea,

Isle of Thanet.

Yours faithfully,

A. HOWARD REED,

Late Captain, 4th Bn.

ARMY FOOTBALL CUP.

Dear Sir,

Could you do me a favour? If you could publish in *The Dragon* a list of winners of the Army Football Cup ("Soccer" of course) and also, if possible, of the Cavalry Football Cup, I should be greatly obliged, and as the information would be of general interest to other readers, I don't think the space would be wasted. Trusting you will be able to oblige, and wishing continued success to *The Dragon*.

19 Nellie View,

Richmond Hill,
Leeds.

Yours faithfully,

R. MAURICE HILL.

(*The Army Cup winners will be given next month: also those of the Cavalry Cup if any reader will let us have them. Ed.*)

SERGEANTS' MESS, 2ND BATTALION.

Sir,

May I be permitted to ask, "Where are the notes from the 2nd Battalion Sergeants' Mess" nowadays?

I have had great pleasure in reading *The Dragon* this last year or so and rather miss them.

Yours truly,

A. READER.

London.

OBITUARY.

Dear Editor,

I write to tell you of the death of an Old Buff, whom I much respected, Charles Drowley (known in the 2nd Battalion as "Spice") of 54 Elphinstone Road, Hastings, on 25th January.

He was my soldier-servant, the best I ever knew, gardener, groom, footman, cook or anything!

He bought his discharge whilst we were at the Depot in 1891, married and got an excellent job. For many years he has suffered greatly, though patiently, tenderly nursed by his devoted wife.

Covert Cottage,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading.

Yours sincerely,

WILLM. RAYDEN.

8TH BATTALION DINNER.

The dinner for the 8th Battalion will be held on **Saturday, April 12th**, at "**Ye Olde Mitre Tavern**," Chancery Lane, Fleet Street, at 7 p.m.

Tickets, (excluding wines, etc.) 5/- each. All drinks will be sold at Bar prices.

My numbers are mounting up slowly and I now have the names and addresses of 75 probable starters.

10 Foxgrove Road,
Beckenham,
Kent.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON LINDLEY.

A BUFF IN NATAL.

Dear Sir,

If my memory is right, the Buffs Regimental paper is *The Dragon* and I should be pleased if you would forward me a specimen copy showing rates of Subscription to same. I am by this mail forwarding you a copy of the S.A.P. Magazine. I can hardly claim to be a "real Buff" but was a member of old "K" Company, (Dover), 1st Battalion, and left there to come out in the Boer War and have now 22 years continuous service in South Africa, so shall soon be thinking of pension. My brother was in the 1st Battalion and died in Peshawar Base Hospital after the Chitral business, and being a native of Dover, I always claim interest in the good old Buffs.

If any of the old Depot hands remember Sgt. Tom Chambers who left the Regiment when they were stationed at Komati Port, North Eastern Transvaal, to join the Railway they will be interested to hear that I was in touch with him a few years ago when he was doing well on the Railway.

Please let me know if you would wish for me to inform you of any Old Buff that I might hear of answering the last Roll in South Africa.

South African Police,
Ndwedwe,
Natal,

Yours faithfully,

E. J. PARTON, Sergt.

South Africa.

THE MARCH TO THE CENOTAPH.

Sir,

In answer to the question of missing the March to the Cenotaph if The Past and Present Dinner was held in Canterbury, surely most Buffs will agree with me that a much better arrangement would be for a march to be held to the Buffs' Memorial Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral on the day of the dinner at Canterbury.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

D. STOCKEN, L/Cpl.

Portland.

"Beneath Bell Harry."



OFFICERS' leave is always a difficult question at the Depot, but they get it in the long run in spite of the difficulty. Two of our officers succumbed to the lures of Switzerland last month and returned very sunburnt and hotly debating the advantages of the Jura and the Burmese Oberland. Both of them hit on good weather on the whole, and it is worth remembering that the latter half of January and the beginning of February are far the most reliable months as regards weather

in Switzerland. We understand that the French have opened a winter sports' resort which is on the borders of the Jura, and we should be glad to hear from anyone who has any knowledge of this country. With the Franc at 100 to the pound, it seems a pity not to take advantage of it, instead of paying the large prices in Switzerland at an adverse rate of exchange. No doubt the French put their prices up to catch the British tourist, but one has to pay 20 Swiss francs for a bottle of whisky and could hardly pay the equivalent in France. Winter Sports are great fun. You want first of all a ski-ing partner, who must have the same amount of energy and endurance as yourself. No great skill at this game is required, but only pluck. You meet people who tell you that you cannot go on an expedition until you can perform a Christiana or Telemark turn in either direction at a moment's notice. This is not the case. You must have the pluck to run straight at the hill until you meet some obstacle when you will find that a "sitmark" will arrest your descent and that you only require your energy to raise you once more into the perpendicular position. A series of straight runs and "sitmarks" will keep pace with the average fancy skier. Your second requirement at the Swiss resort is a dancing partner. For surely after a long day in the sun and the mountain air a truly seductive partner is required to lure you to dance after dinner to the strains of an Italian band. Some advocate a little Bridge and a large Bier Blonde and a comfortable bed. It is a good form of holiday and would be quite perfect if one could guarantee its coincidence with the English winter frosts. It spoils the fun to think of missing the hunting at home.

We were very disappointed that the Prince of Wales could not come down and ride in the Shorncliffe Drag point to point. Four of his horses were entered for the Nomination race and it was sad to see only three of them start. It was a bitterly cold day with a strong North-east wind and the horses suffered as much as the spectators. It was bad luck for the Drag Committee who only cleared about £40 on the meeting. There were some close finishes and almost record number of starters.

It is a great blow to us all to hear that Major Greenway wants to give up his job as Secretary of the Past and Present Association. He has been bothered a great deal lately with his leg and cannot keep pace with all he wants to do. It will be hard to replace him and the Depot will miss him from their mess. We hope that he will be able to settle where he can obtain the electrical treatment which appears to be the only remedy for the pain which his leg gives him.

Football.

Cinque Ports' League v. R.G.A. on our ground.

Won by us 2-0, after a very strenuous game, played under good conditions.

We were very keen to win this game as earlier in the season we had been beaten 1-0 by the Gunners, and as they are the present league leaders we did our best to down them.

Cinque Ports' League v. R.I.F. on our ground.

Lost 2-1, after a very keen game, and a game which we ought to have won.

However, the R.I.F. played a jolly good game, made the most of their opportunities and retired winners.

Cinque Ports' League v. Green Howards at Dover.

Lost 2-0 and so the Green Howards avenged an earlier beating that we had given them. It was an atrocious day with a hurricane of wind.

Recruits v. Lancer Squadron, Cavalry Depot.

Won by us 3-1, after an enjoyable game with the quality of the football excellent.

Recruits v. R.A.M.C.

For the fourth time the Recruits met the R.A.M.C. and this time for the first time were beaten, the score being 4-3 against. However, some of our recruits were playing for the Depot that day and so the team was weakened. It was a jolly good game.

Recruits v. Lancer Squadron Cavalry Depot.

The Lancers, not satisfied with the first result, challenged again and again we emerged successful after an excellent game by 2-1.

Inter Squad Shield.

The only event which has taken place so far is the Cross country run which after a very good race was won by L/Sgt. Beasley's Squad. The first six runners in were:—

1, Pte. Ash; 2, Pte. Tanner; 3, Pte. Payne; 4, Pte. Bottomley; 5, Pte. Peters; 6, Pte. Grigsby, and six others completed the course of three miles in less than 19 minutes, and 23 completed in less than 22 minutes.

Privates' Whist Drives and Dances.

Our weekly Whist Drives and Dances are still going along nicely with an average of 18 to 20 tables. Very nice and sensible prizes, such as Safety Razors, watches, etc., are given for the men and suitable prizes for the ladies.

Altogether a very cosy sociable evening is spent, the band very kindly supplying the music free.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Winners of Sergeants' Mess Whist Drives.

Ladies' 1st.	Pair of vases.	Mrs. Barrows.
2nd.	Floating Flower Bowl.	Mrs. Osborne.
Gents' 1st.	Thermos Flask.	Mr. E. H. Dixon.
2nd.	Writing Pad.	Mr. Horne.
Ladies' Booby.	Hot Water Jug.	Mrs. Edwards.
Gents' Booby.	Plated Match Box.	Sergl. Emery.
Ladies' 1st.	Handmade wool rug.	Miss Roberts.
2nd.	Scent Spray.	Mrs. Vaughan.
Gents' 1st.	Hair brushes in case.	Mr. Dance.
2nd.	Eversharp Pencil.	R.Q.M.S. Ings.
Ladies' Booby.	Plated pin-cushion.	Mrs. Tucker.
Gents' Booby.	Sealing Wax Burner.	Sgt. Bates, 10th Hussars.
Ladies' 1st.	Manicure Set.	Mrs. Barrows.
2nd.	Floating Bowl.	Mrs. Ings.
Gents' 1st.	Travelling Toilet set.	Sgt. Osborne.
2nd.	Silver Plated Calendar.	Sgt. Warner.
Ladies' Booby.	Smelling Salts.	Miss Taylor.
Gents' Booby.	Snuff Box.	Mr. Edwards.
Concealed Number.	Sergts' Red Sash.	C/S. Edwards.
Ladies' 1st.	Butter Dish.	Mrs. Ongley.
2nd.	Powder Bowl.	Mrs. Ings.
Gents' 1st.	Safety Razor and Strop.	Mr. Foreman.
2nd.	Plated Blotter.	Mr. Gale.
Ladies' Booby.	Manicure Set.	Mrs. Keegan.
Gents' Booby.	Pocket Book.	Mr. Tucker.

The above are the lists of prize-winners in our Weekly Whist Drive Tournaments which, with the holding of each one, seem to become more popular than ever. The prizes were really excellent ones, too, and well worth striving for.

Our news this month is not of a startling character. We've had some happy gatherings, and really they are essential during these dreary February nights, for O! how the evenings do drag at this time of the year.

In the Spoon Shoot Sgt. MacWalter carried away the Silver one, and Snowy Manning the Wooden Fellow. Poor old Snowy, that's twice off the reel.

The Billiard Handicap is now over for the Major Geo. Porter Challenge Cup, and it is with great pleasure that we offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. E. H. Dixon (Drummy) on proving victorious. He played a really good game, and so did his opponent, Mr. Sid Sutton, who, at the half-way mark, had a somewhat substantial lead. When the third hundred was passed, however, Drummy put in some excellent uphill work, and eventually ran out winner by 77 points. Considering his advancing years, Mr. Sutton stuck to his guns through a rather lengthy game in a most creditable manner, and we all congratulate him with equal warmth on putting up such a fine display.

Beneath Bell Harry—Continued.

We read in *The Dragon* this month a short message from our old friend, Jack Marchant, and he wishes to be remembered to "W.M.S." Thank you, Jack. The writer of these Notes knows who you mean, and trusts you are getting along famously. "How is Mother keeping, and how is my "Dear Little Ducky-Bird"? Give her a big buster (X) from the old chap. By the way, send us a line when you have time and we'll assuredly answer it.

And we also read of one of the very best of pals—dear Wallie Maillard. Forgive us old friend for not writing ere this, but we haven't been over grand, and will do so very soon. We're off to Pension before long, and when we come your way (if we ever do) will most certainly look you up. All best wishes to Mrs. Maillard, and a big Whopper (X) for sweet little Kathy. We hope they are both enjoying tip-top health. We're still in the same old boat Wallie. You know—"Stick it on the old bill."!

We have heard that our late companion here, Sergeant Fred Potter now with the 2nd Battalion at Portland, has been promoted Warrant Officer II., and appointed C.S.M. The heartiest congratulations to you Fred is what we all send, and are delighted to think that, at long last, a permanent advancement has come your way. You've merited it old pal, and, in all conscience, you've struggled long enough for it. The following are very appropriate—We believe they are Whittier's words:—

On again, the virtue lies
IN THE STRUGGLE, not the prize.

Cheerio! Don't choke us off old friend for attempting to moralise. There are still Field Marshal's Batons knocking about, so go ahead and don't take "No" for an answer!

Just as we are sending in these Notes we have heard with deep regret of the sudden death of ex-R.S.M. Wall of the 2nd Battalion, who, prior to going to pension, was with us here at the Depot. We tender our sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Wall in her great loss. "Toff," as he was always affectionately called, endeared himself to all ranks, and his loss will be deeply felt by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

W.M.S.

Privates' Dance.

On Friday, February 1st, the Privates of the Depot gave another dance in the Garrison Gymnasium, at which 400 hundred attended. Private Banks, being somewhat indisposed, handed over the duties of M.C. to Corporal Hamer, who was also assisted by Colour-Sgt. Edwards. This dance was a record for numbers and fun and quite a lengthy programme was got through, in which there were several dances for which ladies chose their partners.

Major and Mrs. Lee honoured us with their presence as did also Captain and Mrs. Cook and family, and everything went along quite gaily, and only one person was pleased when it was all over and he was a "wee bit crabbed" otherwise he may have thought different. On this occasion we had Mr. Partridge's string band as the Depot Band were all on leave, but their music from everyone's point of view, was excellent.

Shima Mills came in during the evening, but changed his drink during the interval, as he had a very bad cold, at least so he said. At 2 a.m. this very successful dance concluded and everyone went away quite pleased and looking forward to the next dance which we hope will not be long.

During the month we have had several very pleasant evenings in the Canteen, starting off with a Whist Drive, followed by a song or two from our talented artists, both ladies and gentlemen, and concluding with a dance, the music being provided by members of band voluntary.

"B.B."

Things we should like to know.

Have the Butcher, Ninencep, and Eggs, changed their religion?
Or did they really lose the bus?
Does this economy pay in the long run?

What's in a Name?

BY J. E. ENRIGHT.

IF I were to ask a recruit the meaning of such barrack room terms as, on the cot, on the tot, square pushing, or a drop of Sergt.-Majors, there is not the slightest doubt the correct definitions would be instantly forthcoming. I wonder, however, if I asked any time serving N.C.O. or man to tell me what regiments are known as the Green-jackets, Red breasts, Lillywhites, Green Howards or Black Horse such a ready reply would be given. One might go still further and talk about the Holy boys, Die hards, Young Buffs, or the Blind half hundred, etc., all referring to titles borne by famous regiments.

Prior to the South African war, many units in the army were commonly known and referred to—even amongst civilians—by a particular name or title, that had become traditional, either on account of some

distinguishing feature in dress, or through some honour won on the battlefield. During the period following and up to the outbreak of the great war, this knowledge gradually declined, until to-day it may be classed as almost extinct.

Recently I was in conversation with a perfect stranger seated beside me during a tram ride. The stranger spoke about the "Die hards" and remarked he thought them a fine body of men and I agreed. To my surprise, I found he was referring to a section of a particular political party and not, as I thought, to the famous Middlesex Regiment. This set me thinking as to why a title consecrated on the battlefield by the valour of the British soldier, should be exploited as if the original glory of a proud honour was of no account.

The reason for this lack or decline of military knowledge is easily understood, and we must be on our guard to prevent it becoming extinct: it is an essential cog in the wheel of esprit de corps, and a real connecting link between Tommy Atkins and John Citizen.

This decline may be traced to the demands of modern warfare and the consequent introduction of khaki for general wear. The days when regiments went into battle in full dress uniforms and colours flying are relegated to the archives of tradition: smokeless powder, long range weapons and other considerations, force battles to open at great distances, hence, invisibility being recognised as a first essential, it was imperative that our glorious old uniforms should give way to modern requirements.

We hear no more of what the Greenjackets did in the thick of battle. No! It is reported what the Rifle Brigade did, and this applies to every regiment in the service, and was most noticeable during the great war. Can you not see in this a reason for decline of Regimental History? I remember a drummer boy being asked on General's inspection: "What is the name of your regiment?" "The Buffs" came the reply. "Yes, but who are The Buffs?" "The Buffs," the boy replied again, and on returning to his barrack room said "the old man thought I was going to say East Kent Regiment, but he was shot."

The introduction of khaki for general use in peace seemed to knock the bottom out of soldiering altogether. How we missed "Down by the Swan River" chanted by Dusty, Blindy, Smudger and Donkey whilst they rubbed up their old Buff facings and placed their parade trousers under the blankets for the usual crease, before adjourning to the canteen or going out in town.

What upset most of the old hands was to see a young recruit walk out in the same clothes he had been on fatigue in: he would return to the barrack room at 9.30 p.m., undress and deposit his trousers on the floor beside his cot. "Blimey!" Dusty would yell, "that's not the blooming place to doff yer trowses: pick 'em up and shove 'em under yer blanket." There certainly was a moral in these remarks.

The re-issue of our pre-war dress for walking out and review order is, I think bound to come shortly; for what is the value of a few pounds of national wealth compared with the wonderful tradition, glory, honour and pride associated with the old regimental tunic.

Take away the old red tunic and you take away everything that went in the past to make a "Thin Red Line." Take away your Lillywhites and Redbreasts and you take away and destroy time honoured designations which have played no small part in building up, not only regimental history, but a great empire.

What's in a name? Some people think that regiments are like roses, and can be called by any name without making any difference. A rose will, in the course of time, die; the name of a regiment will live for ever.

Soldiering in Switzerland.

I.

IN a little village nestling in a small snow-clad, wooded valley high up in the Jura Mountains, assembled, about nine o'clock one Sunday morning in January, about fifty rugged and sturdy men on skis. Each man was dressed differently to his companion, but all wore some kind of uniform. Some were clad in a dark blue material like French soldiers were in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870; others were dressed in a dark grey-green kit not unlike that worn by the German Army; while one or two, more up-to-date disported themselves in French sky-blue. In only two respects were all alike (but not in colour) for all wore a long-peaked soft cap with flaps to pull down over the ears. Later, the value of this type of cap was to be ably demonstrated. And every man wore puttees—surely a tribute to the British Army, for all nations seem to have copied us in this respect. Each was armed with the Swiss Service pattern rifle (something like the Ross with which the Canadians were armed during the late war). This weapon was carried slung across the back. A belt and ammunition pouches completed the equipment except for two ski-sticks each man carried, one in either hand.

It may be wondered why this body of armed men should be assembled thus on a Sunday, and why they were there. The first part of the question can be answered in very few words, because no other day was available, for during week-days, one man was the local blacksmith, another mended visitors' skis, another was the village cobbler, while another was a guide—and so on, for in Switzerland, all able-bodied men are trained soldiers, and pride themselves that they are always ready to defend their Country should the necessity arise. The reason of the assembly was announced in printed bills previously circulated which stated that there would be a competition between military patrols on skis and they would have to carry out the following exercise:—

1. Patrol along a route previously flagged to a point named. (About 16 kilometres).
2. Fire five rounds each from this point at targets provided.
3. Continue along flagged route and reach finishing point as quickly as possible. (Another six kilometres).

The bill further stated that patrols would be marked for the following:—

- (a) March discipline.
- (b) Carrying out of task and value of report.
- (c) Score gained on targets.
- (d) Speed and general bearing.

Each patrol consisted of one N.C.O. and three men who would be drawn from any arm of the Service—which may have accounted, in some degree, for the many various types of uniform worn.

II.

When all were mustered, patrols started off along their course at five minute intervals. After several patrols had left, swarmed swiftly as ants up the opposite hill, and disappeared over the crest, the writer of this article thought it was about time his started too, and henceforth would humbly crave the indulgence and sympathy of anyone who may read what follows. Especially would he claim the sympathy of him who may read this if he himself has ski-ed, for then will he have a fellow-feeling as he follows the story of the trail as it winds upwards and ever upwards. Unfortunately, to go down it is always necessary previously to climb, and this occasion was no exception. Patrols of panting, sweating men came plodding briskly up the steepest gradients until, at length, the man-that-went-out-to-watch was left staggering and stumbling far behind. And then it came on to snow, obliterating completely every landmark, and limiting the range of visibility to fifty yards. Why is it falling snow always seems to blow into one's eyes when skiing? How ably was illustrated now the value of the Swiss long-peaked cap. But it behoves one to press on quickly for the tracks are becoming obliterated by fresh snow, and there is no one to show the way. At length the fading track leads down hill through trees, and winds about amongst them. Confound those trees, how they do get in the way, and what countless numbers of times it is imperative to sit down quickly to avoid crashing into them! And now the virgin, new-fallen snow is balling up beneath the skis, and preventing a pleasant little coast down a gentle slope. Off with them then, and rub them with beeswax; it's the only thing to do. Hark! Listen to those shots. Thank Heaven! Now the soldiers cannot be far in front. But all troubles are not yet over. A ski-strap breaks and another has to be improvised from the cord out of the stick. At last the track, descending steeply, reveals the last patrol just finishing firing up a beautiful little valley, each side covered with closely growing and tall, majestic pine trees, all heavy and drooping with the newly-fallen snow. The targets used were ordinary profile, head and shoulder figures very similar to those used in our own Army, and were stuck up in the snow about three hundred yards away. The practice completed, away went this last patrol in single file, and only a few yards apart. Down a steep and narrow track beneath the trees they glided swiftly and silently as though they floated on invisible wings, while the only English witness of these exploits came ponderously stumbling and slithering after, and eventually tottered into the village when the last competitor had long since passed the winning post.

R. T.

Army Officers' Dress.

It is decided as a temporary measure and until the future policy of full dress for the Army generally is settled, that officers, who are not in possession of full dress uniform of their rank, may, when attending Courts, State Balls, or other evening entertainments at Court, wear the following alternative Court dress:—

Coat—ordinary black evening dress; waistcoat, black or white evening dress; breeches—plain black evening dress material or stockinet, with three small black cloth or silk buttons, and small jet or black buckles at the knee; hose—black silk; shoes—plain court, with bows, but without buckles; tie—white evening dress bow.

When attending Levees and Investitures, service dress uniform may be worn.

PERSONALIA

We would like you to

SHORT SKETCHES

help us develop these features

REMINISCENCES

Where to settle when Retired.

BY AN OLD BUFF.

NOWADAYS with high taxation and an ever-increasing vast population in the United Kingdom, it may possibly be of some assistance to retired Buffs if I relate my experiences of S. Africa as a country to settle in.

I have now been in the country 21 years, and in these years, one gains a considerable knowledge of the country and how to make oneself exceedingly comfortable. I have of course had various periods of leave to England and find England quite a good place for a holiday but not as a permanent home. I speak as a man of limited means only, if one had an income of £5,000 a year or more give me England every time, but for the man of small means it seems pretty well unbearable.

Out here income tax is 1/- in the £ and you have no servant difficulties. There is unlimited Black labour—farm labour at 10/- and 15/- a month per head with food, and house servants from 15/- to £3 a month according to qualifications—and the servants can be trained to be quite good ones.

The climate is excellent, for anyone who has spent some years in India it is ideal, there are slight frosts in the winter and the summer is never too hot; nearly all the year round you can sit out of doors in the glorious sunshine. At the same time, in spite of so many days of sunshine, we are not so drought stricken as is generally supposed. Where I am stationed at present the rainfall averages 27 inches to 30 inches, and the district has produced this year over 500,000 bags of maize. It happens to be about the best farming district in the Free State and a good living can be made by any man who has learnt farming at a S. African Agricultural College and had practical experience with an up-to-date farmer, who buys a place of not less than 1,000 acres which can be bought now at about £2 an acre. Land can be bought with Government assistance, the Government advances up to 60 per cent. of the purchase price at 8 per cent., that is 6 per cent. interest and 2 per cent. towards redemption of capital, but it would be unwise to think of starting farming without thorough training and a capital of not less than £2,000 to £3,000. A short course at an Agricultural College costs as far as I remember about £5, and a practical farmer will generally take a pupil free, but he pays no salary.

This letter would be too long if I entered into profits, losses, prices of stock, etc., but I am only too ready to answer any questions if sent to me through the Editor of *The Dragon*.

Now some one may say "I don't want to farm. I don't want the bother of the management of a large estate and a quantity of stock." I happen to be one myself. I have a farm and I lease it, and when I retire in three years I don't intend to farm it. I have bought a little place of 20 acres in the highlands of Natal, at an elevation of 3,500 feet, on the main line to Durban, the scenery is magnificent. We have our own water supply, which will be led without any expense to speak of, on to the house which we are building in 1925. There are no Municipal rates and taxes. The railway, one and a half miles below me, is being electrified and I am informed there will be no difficulty in putting electric light on to my house and the houses of our English neighbours.

In our new home, which is now fenced in we shall be self-supporting with sufficient grazing to keep several head of cattle, poultry, pigs, and garden, an orchard of fifty plum trees is already established. You get the early plums on the Durban market just before the Cape Fruit. A neighbour of ours made £500 one year out of early plums alone.

If any old Buff requires any information about this country I will be only too glad to supply it.

The Band Menagerie at Singapore.

1911—1912.

BY CORPORAL JAMES F. WRIGHT.

(continued from last month).

Now comes the young bear, who was quite harmless as he had previously had all his teeth drawn and his claws taken out. He used to cause no end of laughter among the boys as every dog he met, and there were many in those days, used to give him a severe shaking, knowing the poor unfortunate beast was minus teeth and claws, but he was always ready to receive these numerous shakings with good humour.

He was eventually sold, making still one less to our Zoo. I think personally, the most amusing of all were the two civet cats, as they are really curious animals originating from Africa, I believe. [There are two or three species found in the Malay Peninsula. *Ed.*] The two possessed by "Sammy," used always to run loose in his bunk as he was at that time officiating in the capacity of Band Storeman, having the able assistance of the famous "Baldy Dyer," known to all by his return from desertion as a notable Rubber Planter. The most curious thing regarding these two creatures was that they had a bad habit of patrolling the two large rooms during the night and to my knowledge on more than one occasion they have had practically the whole band in a state of excitement, with the pranks they used to play during their mid-night rambles.

Their favourite pastime was getting into the coal-box, to find anything in the shape of eatables, and the most amusing part of this adventure was for one of them to find an empty salmon tin, and get his head well fixed inside, and then find he could not get it out again quite so easily as he got it in, the consequence being he would go tearing round the room making an awful noise whenever the salmon tin came into contact with anything until some good Samaritan got out of bed to release him from his tortures, only to be rewarded with a severe bite through the hand or the first part that he could get hold of.

I can picture quite plainly even now the boots flying at this poor creature who had been unfortunate enough to get his head enclosed in the salmon tin, for causing everyone in the room to be disturbed from a peaceful slumber.

To finish this story I should like to mention a word about the iguana, who lived but a short life among his Zoo companions.

He was brought home one afternoon as usual in a rickshaw by the "Redoubtable Sammy" alive and well, just as he had been captured from the river bank among his crocodile friends, and I may mention that this creature is of the crocodile species, only on a much smaller scale, as this one in particular measured somewhere about four feet six inches from nose to tail.

He survived only one night in the bunk on the floor, as the following morning, Sammy noticed he appeared to be dying, and could not exist out of water, so he picked him up, and took him down to the cook-house, placing him under the cold water tap in the hope of reviving him, but all to no avail.

After several experiments he met a sad end and had to be buried in the "Band Garden," which contained some hundreds of "Silent Warriors," that had been brought from various engagements the Band had attended, having once contained that well known beverage ASAHI BEER, and then everyone used to wonder why nothing would ever grow in the Band Garden, not even after the Quarter-master had presented the Band with a load of manure for a Christmas Present for the purpose of cultivating the garden on the same scale of those so beautifully turned out by the Companies.

This concludes a brief essay on the Band Zoo which I am certain, a good number of Past Members of the Band will well remember.

The 4th Battalion.



NO events of outstanding interest have occurred this month.

The Battalion had a small entry for the Territorial boxing finals which took place in London on the 9th, but we were not, however, able to enter a full team.

All companies are devoting their energies to winter training programmes and a few new recruits have joined us. Numbers are however, still below establishment.

Amongst the various improvement schemes on foot, there is an elaborate proposed new miniature range for the Weald Company. We hope this will soon be approved and also that

the house there on which their indefatigable company commander has his eye, will be purchased for our P.S. Instructor and his long suffering and unwilling "grass widow."

We hope, before the month is out to welcome a new officer to "B" Company when Mr. H. N. H. W. Wild, who comes to us from the Eton O.T.C. should have joined. He lives at Chilham and although his stay with us may not be long—(we hear he has an eye on a regular commission in the Cavalry)—he will be none the less welcome.

The Dover Company were most interested by a lecture on the 18th and the doings of the R.A.F. during the war. The lecturer described many harrowing escapes from archi-rings, search lights, enemy aircraft, and conking engines when on day and night bombing raids. He brought home to everyone what war in the air 1914-1918 really meant.

We hear Dover are to launch out into a smoking concert on 23rd. We wish them a jolly—and productive—evening.

Talking of lectures, we hear that the gallant commander of "B" Company is taking a course of study in Einstein's theory of relativity, and he started well with the moon.

Boxing.

The Divisional Boxing Tournament took place at the Royal Corps of Signals' Drill Hall, Stamford Brook, on Saturday, 9th February, 1924.

This Company was represented by Dmr. F. Pascall who again fought his way through to the Finals of the Flyweights, but unfortunately received the "K.O." in the Final.

As this year is Pascall's first appearance in a Ring, we consider his performances very creditable indeed and would like to congratulate him on his sportsmanship and wish him better luck still in the future.

HEAD-QUARTER NOTES.

We regret that in our February notes an error was made in the address of the Chairman of the local recruiting committee for Herne Bay. It should read as follows:—Herne Bay—George Cursons, Esq., Herne Brow, Herne Bay.

THE WEALD COMPANY.

January is a busy month in the Territorial World but there is but little to report on paper. We have all been occupied behind the scenes checking, handing over and generally starting 1924 in as straight a way as possible.

Parade numbers have been increasing steadily and with the whispered report that perhaps a new Miniature Rifle Range may be constructed at H.Q., Cranbrook, a fresh interest in this branch of musketry has sprung up. It is hoped that in early spring we shall be able to make a good start in our firing at Brewers Wood so that there will be no rush to qualify just before camp as was the case last year.

We are lucky in being able to send away three Lance-Corporals from the H.Q. Platoon on courses. This kind co-operation and great help from The Depot is very much appreciated indeed.

May we as members of the Weald Company, take this opportunity of thanking Captain T. B. Cheesman our lately retired Company Commander for all that he has done for us. He took over command of this Company from the start of T.F. activities after the War, and has brought us all through some very trying times with no small degree of triumph. We understand that he has very kindly said that we may still go and enjoy our weekend camps at Sissinghurst Castle and we hope that he will spare the time to be with us. We trust also that he will pay us a visit in camp.

SITTINGBOURNE DETACHMENT.

Owing to nothing special happening we have very little news to report. The detachment are busy at miniature range practice as we have got a competition shoot coming off against the Local Police, these are pretty hot stuff as they are all ex-service men, and are at present at the top of the Police Rifle Club League, so we are anticipating on putting up a good show against them, the result of the match we hope to publish in our next issue.

All ranks were sorry to hear of Cpl. Farrett's accident while working at Kemsley, and we all hope that he will soon recover the full use of his ankle and be able to turn back to his work again.

We were all pleased to hear that Seaford is to be our camp again this year, where one can meet old friends which were made in the past camp, and we also hear that many are already looking into their Plan-nells, as no doubt Seaford Cricket Ground will be a great welcome again, which we all hope will be.

D COMPANY.

Boxing.

At the Brigade Boxing Tournaments held at Bromley Drill Hall, on Saturday, 19th January, 1924, "D" Company were represented by Drummer W. J. Pascall, Drummer F. Pascall and Pte. Abbott.

We would like to congratulate Drummer F. Pascall on winning his way through to the Final of the Flyweights and incidentally winning the Final. From the reports of an eye-witness, Pascall excelled himself, putting "paid" to his opponents in a most effective and sporting manner.

Drummer W. J. Pascall and Private Abbott were beaten by their opponents but took their defeats like sportsmen. Although they were beaten they have gained further experience in this sport which will serve them to good purpose in their future contests.

The Company will now be represented by Drummer F. Pascall at The Drill Hall, Stamford Brook on Saturday, 9th February.

Company Dances.

Our usual fortnightly Dances took place at The Drill Hall on Wednesdays, 16th and 30th January, and were extremely well patronised, some 250 people being present on each occasion.

We were very pleased indeed to have the company of our "newly-acquired" Adjutant, Capt. Bernard Davies, M.C. and our R.S.M. at our Dance on the 16th and hope to have the pleasure of seeing them at our Dances in the future. In fact we shall be very pleased indeed to see any member of The Buffs, Regular or Territorial, Past or Present, at our Dances and feel sure that we shall be able to give them an enjoyable evening.

The Kiddies' Fund Dance.

The Company, having decided to give a Christmas Party to 500 odd necessitous kiddies in Dover, held a Dance in aid of the Funds, at the Drill Hall on Wednesday, 23rd January. We had an attendance at this Dance of over 300 people, but even then the floor was not overcrowded. A most enjoyable evening was spent by those present, the Dance coming to a termination at 2 a.m.

The Orchestra, under the control of Mr. Cattley, were in excellent form, and the thanks of the Committee are due to C.S.M. Couchman for the very able way in which he carried out the arduous duties of M.C. and also to C.Q.M.S. Wisdom and Stewards for the great help they gave to make the Dance a success.

The Mayor and Corporation of Dover attended the Dance and among our other guests were very pleased to see Lieut. C. H. Brooke from Folkestone, and Mr. Stanley Banks, who is home on leave from Singapore, and who will be remembered by many who were in the 2nd/4th Battalion's Detachment which went to the Dardanelles, also by many who knew him as Orderly Room Sergeant with the 3rd/4th at Crowborough.

The Kiddies' Christmas Party.

The Kiddies' Party took place at the Drill Hall on Saturday, afternoon, 26th January, 1924.

Although the Tea was not timed until 4.15 p.m., the children started arriving outside the Drill Hall at 2 p.m. and by 3.30 p.m. the Sea Front immediately outside the Drill Hall was crowded by the children, but, thanks to the Police Constable on Duty on the Sea Front, everything was very orderly. As a strange coincidence, the Constable in question was P.C. Deal, who served as a Sergeant in the 1st/4th Battalion The Buffs during the War.

At 4 p.m. the Doors were opened and a surging crowd of kiddies entered the Drill Hall nearly causing the Entrance Doors to collapse, but, thanks to some of the hetfier Members of the Company, no accidents occurred.

Tea, composed of Hufkins and Butter, Fruit Cake, Plain Cake, and several varieties of buns, was served to 573 children at 4.15 p.m. and, needless to say, when they rose at 5 p.m. there was not much food left! During Tea, Music was provided by The Corps of Drums under the direction of Sergeant-Drummer Tripp and, judging by the applause from the kiddies, was greatly appreciated.

4th Battalion—Continued.

After Tea, seats were arranged across the Hall in front of the stage and selections were given by The Pipers and Drums of The Gordon Boys which much pleased the children.

Following upon this, a Concert was given by The Buckland Paper Mills' Negro Minstrel Troupe. Their programme was a most excellent one, especially as they included many popular items and songs, the children being able to let loose their lungs in singing the choruses which they did with great gusto, so adding to the general cheeriness of the evening.

After the Minstrel Troupe had finished, an exhibition of Sword Dancing was given by some of the Gordon Boys, followed by some humorous songs by one of these boys which was greatly applauded. The Gordon Boys finished their programme by selections on the Bells.

During the Concert, Colonel Commandant N. G. Cameron, Commanding Dover Garrison and Mrs. Cameron, accompanied by Capt. and Mrs. Lionel Smith, arrived. At the conclusion of the entertainment, Colonel Commandant Cameron addressed the kiddies, introducing Mrs. Cameron, who in her turn, was about to introduce Father Christmas.

The children were then formed up, facing the Christmas Trees, the boys on the left, headed by The Gordon Boys, and the girls on the right, headed by the girls from The Dover Girls' Orphanage.

Father Christmas then appeared at the window on the verandah in The Drill Hall and descended a ladder where he was met by Mrs. Cameron who escorted him to the Trees. The children then filed past the Trees, Father Christmas officiating at the Boys' Tree and Mrs. Cameron superintending the distribution of Toys to the Girls.

After the distribution of Toys, at about 7.15 p.m., the kiddies partook of a basin of soup before going home and on leaving the Drill Hall were presented with a bag of sweets and an orange.

Thus ended the Kiddies' Christmas Party!

Lieut. J. Sherwood acted as M.C. and was very ably assisted by Lady Helpers under the direction of The Mayoress, Mrs. Barwick and by Capt. Kenward, M.C., Messrs. Holtum, Bing Watson and Ransom and Members of the Company under C.S.M. Couchman, Sgt. Drummer Tripp, and C.Q.M.S. Wisdom.

The Commissariat Department was under the supervision of R.Q.M.S. Arnold, the cooking, etc., being very ably carried out by Sergeant Miles (Sergeant-Cook, 4th Buffs), Sergeant Coombs, Ptes. Knapp and Fowler. "Father Christmas" was very ably impersonated by Private T. Wakefield.

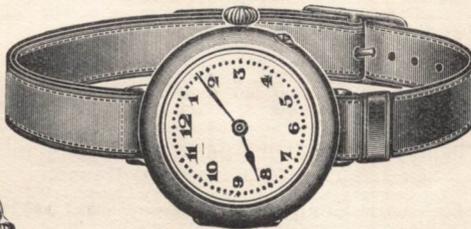
Masticators.

BY JACKY JACKY, LATE 2ND BATTN.

I FANCY—but am not quite certain—I was the only "Buff" at Ulundi and engaged in the capture of King Cetewayo. To this hangs a tale which may be of interest to many. Lord Wolseley at the close of hostilities lost no time in carrying out the retirement of the troops from Zululand. The M.I. Squad of which I was Q.M.S. retired with other Corps into Natal, bound for Durban to disband and rejoin their Regiments, but I was to go with my tents and equipment by the shortest route via Ekowe and Tugela. Being far too busy from the time I joined this arm of the Force to think of relics of the Campaign I decided to have a search for some before quitting Ulundi, so set forth one morning over the old battlefield in quest of some item. Nothing could I discern but human skulls, clean, dried, and parched, and these I examined carefully. Seeing nothing in these that would be of any value but the teeth I selected a skull, extracted the lower jaw, took it to my tent, boiled it, and out tumbled the ivories.

Now, these I always carried in my breeches pocket as a kind of mascot, the effect of which you shall presently see. Having started with my convoy which consisted of four mule waggons with the necessary muleteers (Hottentots) the escort being my storeman and I, all went well and jolly till we got to Ekowe. Here we outspanned and had the good fortune to meet the Swedish Missionary of the Station, to have a cup of coffee and other refreshments with him, a long talk about his place and the time the Buffs spent in it. Then the conversation shifted to Ulundi and the back country, the loss of horses by lions, etc., which he interpreted to a number of natives squatting around. During the discourse however I drew forth the teeth from my pocket, at which all the natives arose and scattered pell-mell. The Missionary got frightened for our safety and told us we had better inspan and make for the Tugela with all haste which I can assure everybody *we did* without drawing rein and with swords drawn. After a day's rest we continued our journey to Stanger where I met an Old Buff in the person of Bill Laidlow who laid the telegraph line to Tugela and worked the office. We had a nice time together you may be sure, he being then a *Civil* servant, his discharge having been purchased by the Natal Government. Oh? He was rosy I could see. He introduced me to a lady whom I learnt was to become Mrs. L. Of course the old man was *well in*, so I learned, and that made me query whether Bill was courting the *he* or the *she* of the family. The day following we went to Veralum where finding my horse suffering from water gripes, I took train to Durban, ordering my convoy to go on slowly. After reporting to General Butler, who was then Q.M.G., handing over all the M.I. gear, seeing the boys paid off, and my storeman squared up with, I obtained a fortnight's leave and made my way to the Camp where I found the Garrison Sgt.-Major to be no other than our old comrade Sergeant Bill Sheppard. Did he ask me to have a drink you say? No, he asked me to swim in everything that was in the mess but water and fed me like a fighting cock and there I met Collope, bandmaster of the 57th, whom I had not seen for years (7), and he had the audacity to try and induce me to transfer and become his Drum-Major because of musical tastes!

I've missed those teeth I once treasured. Have a look and see if any of you are wearing them. The crown of them shews the shape of the Rose. I arose early one morn to obtain them and they were the means of my hurrying to meet old Buffs of my acquaintance who gave me a very *rosy* time.



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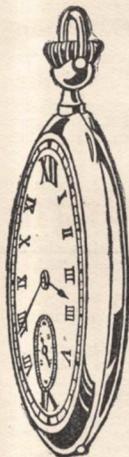
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The Street of Adventure.

BY CAPTAIN H. H. C. BAIRD, D.S.O., LATE THE BUFFS.

No. III.

AMONGST those whom I bearded in their dens to obtain copy for my paper in its early days, were Mr. J. Havelock Wilson, President of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, and the late Sir Arthur Pearson. There is no greater patriot than the former, whilst the way in which Sir Arthur Pearson devoted his life to relieve the sufferings of others, and the wonderful example he set, made me think that an article from his pen would be of the greatest encouragement to those for whom my paper particularly catered for.

In front of me as I write are the words that Mr. Havelock Wilson dictated to me in September, 1918, and I cannot refrain from quoting the following extract, in the belief that the views as expressed then by this one-time seaman, are those which are held by the great majority of our people to-day, in spite of the shriekings and murmurings that reach us from the Clyde and elsewhere.

Here is what he wrote :—

"Now, at the present moment there are some Jeremiahs in our midst who are prophesying revolutions and all kinds of trouble at the end of the war. There is one important fact, and that is, during this war all classes of society, from the duke to the dustman, have mingled together in the trenches and the fields of Flanders and elsewhere. The same thing may be said of the men of the sea. We never knew each other as well as we do to-day. We have been compelled to be comrades in all kinds of adventures and dangers. We have discovered that we are men and have one common interest. That being so, why should we contemplate at the end of a great world-struggle that we are all going to be opponents and enemies and seek to destroy each other? I look for better things as a result of this war.

Of course, I may say that I do not subscribe to the conscription of wealth, because I look upon wealth as the product of labour, and labour is the working man's capital, and I don't want anyone to conscript the working man's capital in any shape or form. I do not believe in what is common understanding; we want to believe that everyone is to fulfil in this world a meaning in life, some work by the hand, some work by the brain, but each and everyone doing some work for the community at large.

When men talk about conscription of wealth and class war, and the "nationalisation" and the "socialisation" of everything, it can only have, to my mind, one meaning and one effect: that is absolute government control of everything, and that our lives in future shall be governed by the State official. Now, I am utterly opposed to this, as I believe the more State officialism we have, the worse matters become for the worker; and when people preach class war, surely this means industrial unrest and hardship for the worker at every turn of the head. I cannot subscribe to such a policy.

What I would like to see at the end of the war is industrial peace, so that the working man may get the largest possible share of the wealth that he produces and live in peace and comfort. There may in the best ordered state of things come a time when we cannot see eye to eye with each other on matters of work and share of profits, but why should we instantly rush into war? Is there no room for what the pacifists term "peace by negotiation?" Could we not sit down at a table and discuss with each other matters in dispute? and, if we could not

adjust our differences, well, then the only alternative may be war, but at least I ask that before resorting to force we should know what we are fighting about.

* * * *

My visit to Sir Arthur Pearson will always remain vivid in my memory. Whilst awaiting him in his study, the door opened and he came with outstretched hand direct to where I was standing. He then waved me to my seat, offered me a cigarette, and went straight to his own seat opposite. During my interview he constantly made pencil notes in his small pocket book, and at the close, opened the door for me, accompanied me to the hall, helped me on with my coat, and then opened the front door: the last I saw of him was standing on the steps leading to his house and waving me farewell. Throughout the whole of the time I was with him there was not a sign of hesitation in any of his movements, nor a sign of faltering step: though stone blind his actions were normal in every respect.

I think Sir Arthur would have been the first to admit that the reason for the amazing way he was able to surmount his disability, and for the wonderful example he was able to set is to be found in the following paragraph taken from the article he kindly gave me. This is what he said :—

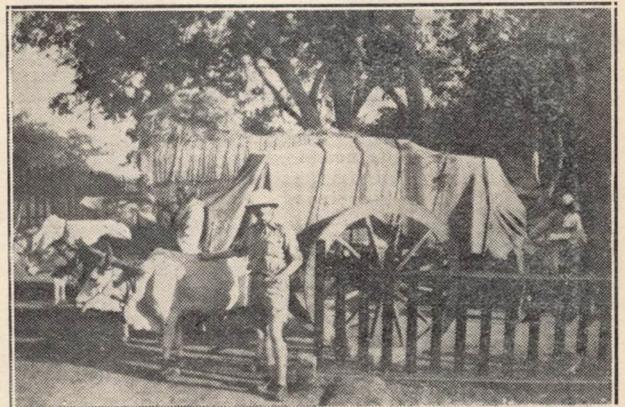
"There is an extraordinary pleasure, too, in overcoming a handicap—in being, if you like, a little bit of a marvel to yourself and others. A sense of conquering difficulties, a sense of self-reliance, a feeling that though you may be blind, or deaf, or badly crippled in some other way, you are still holding a place in the normal life of the community: all this means a great deal."

(To be continued).

A Buff in India.

THE following reaches us from Mr. H. H. Crossby, of Travancore, S. India, and late 240743 Pte. A Coy., 1/5th Buffs.

"Through the pages of *The Dragon* I would like to be remembered and please convey my good wishes for 1924 to all old comrades of the 1/5th Battalion, to C.S.M. Knight, 4th Battalion, and to Sgt. Baker, Canterbury Post Office. He will remember me, I have no doubt. I am enclosing a snapshot of myself standing by a bullock bandy loaded with tea chests outside Kodai Kanal Road Railway Station, South Indian Railway. If you can spare the space, perhaps you will insert in the next issue of *The Dragon*. It may be of interest."



The verbs to "Wangle" & "Scrounge."

BY N. CATCHPOLE, THE BUFFS.

IT is curious, but during any campaign of any length, the Army increases its vocabulary in adjectives and verbs. Hark back to the South African War when, in the past tense, "we commandeered," to the N.W. Frontier when "we puckerod," and to some more remote stunt when we "half-hinched," "pinched," "nobbled," etc. But the most apt and serviceable expressions, born of the Great War were to "Wangle" and "Scrounge." The latter word, however, has the dual advantage of being a noun, for one has to "wangle" a "scrounge." Yet "scrounge" must take precedence for its utility. It is all-embracing in its range and scope in all ranks of all the Services. Take the present tense—I scrounge, thou scroungest, he scrounges, we scrounge, you scrounge, they scrounge. It is obvious that the batsman vied with the C.-in-C., there is no argument against it. The verb to "wangle" must be considered the preparatory verb which, freely interpreted, means the subtle approach to the scrounge. Yet "wangle" is of nearly as great importance as its fellow verb. Suppose one (not in France), wanted a couple of day's leave and not 'on the list' one had to wangle a sick relative, an increase in the family, or kill off another grandmother before one could scrounge a pass. Since both verbs had their origin in the trenches, let us apply them to their sphere. Often when a chap had opened his umpteenth bully beef tin in the line, or out, his nostrils were assailed by the odour of fried pork or rabbit stew or coffee and cognac from some other billet or dug-out. What else could his conclusions have been but that someone had wangled and scrounged. Now who could have been scrounging so successfully in such a derelict spot. Everywhere seemed shut up and the inhabitants evacuated. But our friend of the keen nasal organs may have been a new hand from Blighty and had not heard of the poor little Belgian hare that had been left behind, or the barn door cock who had overfed himself on shell-scattered corn and who persisted in announcing his neutrality in the war in the early morn, or the pig who had dug himself in under fallen thatch and bean sticks. The compassionate "old sweat," however, knowing these poor creatures ultimate fate, wangles an orderly's, or ration carrying job, that takes him by the scene of desolation where he scrounged humanely by deciding the fate of the hare, doves, fowl or pig. He argues "Now a 'coal box' in this blinking pig-stye won't leave a single chop, but a lunge with the old bayonet and ye've got a whole pig." What logic! What a scrounge! The whole platoon on pork including the skipper who wisely asks no questions. As the war went on, wangling became harder and nearly impossible, but the gift to wangle never was lost sight of. There was the chap who went over the top and took six hours to wangle a pair of boots off a certain Jerry in his immediate front and came back plus two rifles and a "pickelhaube." Then his chum, hearing of the successful scrounge, followed suit, but took a day and a half, his feet being of 'out size,' but who was finally successful and exhibited a haversack full of iron crosses to his Captain on his return.

The alert scrounger was in great demand by anyone who wanted a servant, for he always managed to wangle a decent billet, truss of straw, bath tub, du pain, du lait, vin blanc, etc., in fact he was indispensable. So thus it always behoved an Officer to wangle a good scrounger for a servant.

There was, in my sector, a very ill-used farm building of the usual type, a mile or so behind the lines, at which the midnight distribution of rations occurred. In

this farm I had my billet for some weeks and when I took over the show there was a solitary porker who had become a great pet of the staff at the farm including the Brigadier who fed him outside the one intact room door at night, when that Officer 'closed up' for the morning strafe. Well, Joey, as we called the pig, led a luxurious life, he had a huge manure heap all to himself in which he got into a fearful state, being a white, but he turned up regularly at the pump to be scrubbed and was always in the pink of condition to greet the Brigadier. Eventually Joey got scrounged and this is how it was. One night a delicious aroma of roast or fried pork pervaded the atmosphere of the farm, in fact one heard it sizzling in every hole and corner. My batman produced some beautifully fried chops from over a half-a-dozen pieces of candle. I discreetly fell to, knowing how tactless it would be to start questioning my own wangler man as to where he had scrounged it. The Brigadier and his staff had a leg of pork and being wise men asked no questions. Certain officers in the front line asked me in the early morning if I could wangle any more pork. I began to wonder where this great scrounge had come off seeing that every possible thing had been scrounged in the devastated town behind us, bar dogs. On my return to the farm I pondered on the matter and it suddenly struck me that Joey had not grunted his salute to the Brigadier on the previous evening. On reaching the farm I carefully scrutinised the great square of manure in the farm yard for a sign of Joey, but he was not visible. I prodded every mound that he might have burrowed under, but without success. He failed to turn up for his usual pump ablutions at mid-day. "My hat!" quoth I, "Joey has been scrounged." Well I argued to myself that I was not Joey's keeper, and, if it was he of the chops last night, I wish he had a brother. When I sat down to my mid-day meal and my batman dumped down a couple of cold chops, I looked up at him quizzingly and he grinned. On ordinary occasions *that* would have finished the matter, but remembering the Brigadier's penchant for Joey, both on the hoof and on the table, I foresaw some pertinent questions as to his welfare looming up for the evening. Turning to my batman I said "By the way, have you seen Joey to-day?"

"Well Sir," he replied "I have and I have'nt."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Why, that's some of him what you've got for dinner."

And it was so. I found out the details bit by bit. It would appear that Joey copped a packet in the neck from bursting shrapnel and squealed until someone cornered him and adjusted a first field dressing. This he promptly wangled off and eat blood and all, likewise several more; a council of war was held and it was decided that as Joey's wound would be bound to turn septic in the manure heap, it would be better to "put him out of and take him in to, mess."

Of course the Brigadier asked me for Joey and I told him of the reason of his demise at which he laughed heartily and said "I take you with reservations, poor Joey! wangled at last." Or was it scrounged?

N.C.

Military Attaches.

Certain capital cities to which Military Attaches are accredited have been re-grouped for the purposes of a further amendment of the rates of foreign allowances. This re-grouping includes the Hague (with Christiania and Stockholm) at the rate of £4 per day; and Brussels (with Berne and Copenhagen) at the rate of £3 10s. 0d. per day.

Sparklets.

A gentleman was one day visiting a lunatic asylum, and whilst walking in the grounds he met a patient, to whom he said :

" Well, my good man, and how did you get here ? "

The lunatic replied as follows :—

" Well, sir, you see I married a widow with a grown-up daughter, and then my father married that same stepdaughter, and that made my wife the mother-in-law of her father-in-law, and my father became my stepson.

" Then my stepmother, the daughter of my wife, had a son, and that boy, of course, was my brother, because he was my father's son ; but he was also the son of my wife's stepdaughter, and therefore her grandson, and that made me grandfather of my stepbrother.

" Then my wife had a son, so my mother-in-law, the stepsister of my son, is also his grandmother, because he is her stepson's child ; my father is the brother-in-law of my child, because his stepsister is his wife ; I am the brother of my own son, who is also the son of my stepgrandmother ; I am my mother's brother-in-law ; my wife is her own child's aunt ; my son is my father's nephew ; and I am my own grandfather."

* * * *

'Erb : " Wot d'yer think about this e'er Frenchman, Bert, an' his outo-suggestion cure ? "

Bert : " D'yer mean that bloke wot says you've only got to keep on repeating, ' Every day I get better and better ! ' an' you do get better if yer poorly ? "

'Erb : " Yes, that's the bloke, Bert."

Bert : " I believe in 'im, 'Erb. Why, every day for the last three months I've bin sayin' to myself, ' Some day I'll get a summons for not paying my rates, 'an strike me pink, yesterday it landed."

* * * *

Practical Father : " If he says he loves you I suppose he does : but can he support you ? " Daughter : " Why, papa, it really wasn't his fault that the chair broke ! "

Bill Brownrigg was a cricketer, who played for Haycum-Clover ;

While taking on his bike " a run " he " bowled a maiden over."

He found she wasn't injured, left his cycle in a thicket ; Then in the gloam, he saw her home, They parted at the wicket.

Bill called next day, a bright May morn ; 'twas good to be alive.

His gig—quite new—just seated two ; they had a lovely drive.

Bill thought with joy, " If I with her can only make ' a match,'

I'm sure for me 'twill really be a very brilliant ' catch.' "

But when Bill called to see her pa, stern, muscular, and stout ;

His ardent dreams gave place to screams ; her father ran him out.

Bill's hopes are dashed, his front teeth smashed ; he's fairly in the dumps.

The dentist stands with forcep'd hands ; it's time to " draw the stumps."

* * * *

Patrick's wife was " ailing," and Patrick put on his Sunday best and walked four miles to the doctor's house to tell him about her.

" Now," said the doctor, when he had heard all Patrick had to say, and had prepared some medicine, " here is something for your wife. I've written the directions on the bottle, and I want her to try it faithfully for a fortnight. Then, if it doesn't relieve her, come to me again, and I will give you another prescription."

" Now, docther, see here," said Patrick, standing straight and looking grimly at the physician. " If you have your doubts o' this curin' Mary, as it's evident you have by the way you spoke, why don't you give me first what you're goin' to give me last ? "

* * *

THE accompanying photograph has reached us from Switzerland: It was taken in the Skating Rink at St. Cergue, situated in the Jura Mountains, and in it will be noticed Lieutenant Robin Tuke on the extreme right next to Mrs. Webster, and Lieutenant R. W. M. Webster seated.

* * *



A Fateful Spin.

THE days of the Chitral campaign were lean days for young men—very lean. A handful of flour one day, a biscuit the next, followed by a loaf between eight, and so on. Very lean days and I was a young man then.

It was the evening before the ascent of the Janbathal Pass; rations had been issued to Section Commanders—two ounces of flour per man. The Section Commanders of No. 2 and 3 Sections laid their wee, small heaps of flour on the ground and surveyed them sorrowfully. Then said one, "I'll toss you for the lot." A look of avariciousness came in the eyes of the other, "Done," he cried. "But first we had better consult our Sections."

The two Sections gathered around, heard the proposal and agreed. Then to choose the heroes to spin the coins. All the eyes of my Section turned instinctively towards me. As I had won all their money at "Brag" during the last month, it was decided that my luck was in. I was bidden to stand forth and battle manfully for their sakes. I strode into the arena.

The man of the other Section stood out; we eyed each other like fierce, hungry tigers—I could almost hear his tail lashing his ribs. The two Sections took position behind us, and civilization went back several centuries.

I produced the coin for the first spin and placed it in readiness to send it upwards. A wave of excitement spread over the assembly, breathing became hard and hurried. I spun the coin, "Heads" shouted the enemy—it was. He picked up the coin and spun it, "tails" said I, and tails it was—one each.

I picked up the coin. The agony was now intense. Perspiration fell in heavy splashes all around. Eyes became bloodshot. Hatred was broadcasted from forty throbbing hearts. My enemy was grasping for breath, and fumbled at his throat as though he were choking; I wiped my clammy brow.

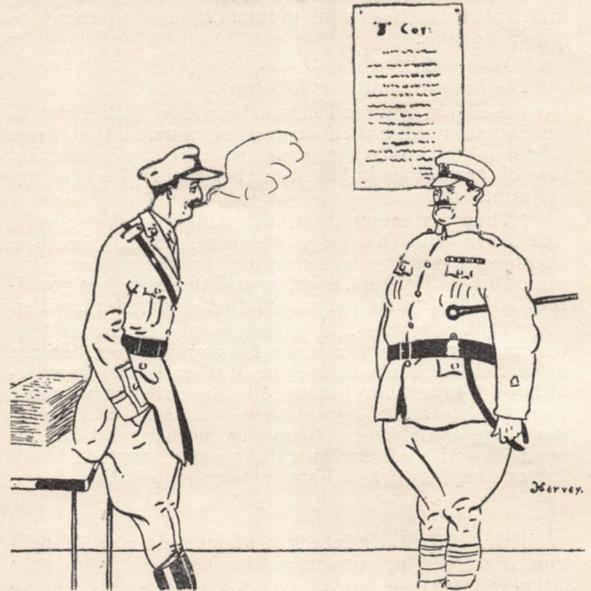
I tossed the coin—a hoarse, rasping voice called "Heads," the coin fell, and stuck in the sand edge on—a cocked—no throw. The Colour Sergeant, who had now joined the party, shouted fiercely to a distant group to keep silence, or he'd clink the whole blooming lot. My Section Sergeant collapsed, but no one heeded him, except pull his body out of the way. I called feebly for water and unstuck my throat. I picked up the coin again and hastily threw it up, to end the torture. It had almost reached the ground when a hoarse whisper from the enemy said "Tails" and tails it was. Night fell with a sickening thud as we crept away to our bivouacs leaving the spoils to the victors.

H.

Regular Army Reserve of Officers.

An amendment to the Articles of the Pay Warrant governing promotion in Class I. of the Regular Army Reserve of Officers, provides that a second lieutenant may be promoted lieutenant on completion of two years' service without any examination. An officer transferred or appointed to the Regular Army Reserve of Officers prior to 1st February, 1924, will be eligible for promotion, provided that he has passed the qualifying examination and has completed the necessary service which, for promotion to captain, is 12 years; for promotion to major 20 years; and for promotion to lieutenant-colonel 25 years. Officers transferred or appointed to the Regular Army Reserve of Officers on or after 1st February, 1924, will not be eligible for promotion above the rank of lieutenant.

Wanted—A Title.



The Editor, "The Dragon," offers a prize of 10/- for the best title to the above illustration received before the 20th inst.

Rates of Pay, Extension of Service, etc.

The following extracts from A.C.I. 106 of 1924, are published for information:—

Should it be decided to make any reduction in the present rates of pay, the following rules will apply in all normal cases where the engagement is not broken by the soldier's own fault.

(a). Soldiers who, BEFORE the date on which any reduction of pay is promulgated, are permitted to extend their colour service, re-engage to complete 21 years, or continue serving beyond 21 years, will continue to receive DURING SUCH FURTHER PERIOD OF SERVICE the rates of pay in any rank which were operative on the date on which they actually extend their service, re-engage to complete 21 years, or continue serving beyond 21 years.

(b). Soldiers who, AFTER the date on which any reduction of pay is promulgated, are permitted to extend their colour service, re-engage to complete 21 years, or continue serving beyond 21 years, will not commence to draw the new rates of pay until the date on which they enter upon their extended or re-engaged period of colour service, or until the date on which they continue in the service beyond 21 years."

Paid Pensioner Recruiters.

NEW RATE OF PAY.

Paid pensioner recruiters employed in Army home commands are now to be paid twenty-five shillings a week plus Civil Service cost of living bonus. No extra remuneration for overtime will be allowed.

See Page 100 for date of the
8th Battalion Dinner.

Regimental Gazette.

The Depot.

APPOINTMENTS.

No. 6280338 Boy A. Cadman (at present at Kneller Hall) has been appointed Bandman with effect from 10-1-24. (Authy:—O.C. 1st Battalion. G.221/24, dated Gibraltar 23-1-24).

ATTACHMENTS.

The undernamed of Terr. Army are attached to the Depot from 31-1-24 while undergoing a Course in Weapon Training:—

234 Batty. R.F.A.: 743985 L/Bdr. A. E. Bidgood; 233 Batty. R.F.A.: 723458 Sgt. A. E. Doyle.

385 Batty. R.F.A.: 744630 Gar. G. Hudd.

The following detail of 1st Battalion arrived home from overseas, for a Pioneer's Course at Chatham, and is attached to Depot from 1-2-24. 6279288 L/C. H. Osborne.

The following details of the Territorial Army are attached to the Depot from 28-1-24 while undergoing a Course of Instruction in the Lewis Gun:—

52nd Kent Med. Bgd. R.G.A., 1664459 Bmbr. F. J. Hone; 58th (E. & S.) Med. Bgd. R.G.A., 1667873 Gnr. T. A. Hurrell.

Pte. Burden attached to Depot for Course of Instruction from 2 to 13-2-24, inclusive.

The following details of 4th Bn. The Buffs (T.A.) are attached to the Depot for a Course of Instruction from 14-2-24:—

6280763 Sgt. F. Glover, 5620299 Cpl. S. Marshall, 6280674 Cpl. A. Phillips, 6281669 L/C. W. Setterfield.

INCREASE.

BOY ENLISTMENT.

Boy C. A. Hudson and Boy V. J. Toms.

RECRUITS.

Pte. C. H. Izzard, Pte. A. Bundock, Pte. P. Jenner, Pte. C. Pilcher, Pte. W. T. Manvill, Pte. C. Smith, Pte. G. F. Boxall, Pte. H. J. Morris, Pte. T. W. Sell, Pte. T. Bird, Pte. R. Fagg, Pte. S. Amos, Pte. J. W. G. Taylor, Pte. S. V. Davey, Pte. S. S. Blanchard, Pte. M. S. Rook, Pte. H. H. Diplock, Pte. P. E. Cherry, Pte. F. Button, Pte. H. W. Walton, Pte. C. S. Jarvis, Pte. F. C. Nye, Pte. L. Staples, Pte. E. G. Davey, Pte. C. R. G. Mannall, Pte. B. J. Connor, Pte. F. Bing, Pte. F. Measday, Pte. W. Blake, Pte. H. A. Styles, Pte. E. V. Clinton.

STRENGTH INCREASE.

6278689 L/C. G. Dray, 6279332 L/C. C. Richardson, 6279998 Pte. E. Lucas.

STRENGTH, DECREASE.

The following were posted to 2nd Battalion on 4-2-24, and are struck off strength from 5-2-24, inclusive:—

6079315 Pte. Belsem, 6282130 Pte. Bishop, 6282150 Pte. Bailey, 6278716 Pte. Blomfield, 6282158 Pte. Charsley, 6282153 L/C. Drake, 6282104 Pte. Day, 6282146 Pte. Frith, 6282137 Pte. Green, 6279267 Pte. Goodman, 6282145 Pte. Gummer, 6282149 Pte. Harrison, 3848400 L/C. James, 6448990 L/C. Knights, 6282131 Pte. Lewis, 6282143 Pte. Nicholls, 1665738 Pte. Russell, 6282043 Pte. Savage, 6282380 Pte. Smissen, 6282144 Pte. Thornton, 6282316 Boy Toms, Awaited Boy Hudson, 6282189 Pte. J. Appleton, 6282194 Pte. W. Birch, 6282190 Pte. J. Beardmore, 6282177 Pte. W. Baker, 6282178 Pte. C. Bowcock, 6282191 Pte. W. Betting, 749868 Pte. H. Cribben, 6282152 Pte. T. Placit, 6282182 Pte. S. Fellows, 6337474 Pte. R. Grant, 6282162 Pte. H. Gillam, 6282185 Pte. J. Harris, 6282181 Pte. J. Harman, 6282186 Pte. T. Jenkins, 6282173 Pte. G. Kimber, 6194992 Pte. A. Knight, 6282188 L/C. T. Leach, 6282172 Pte. W. Mitchell, 748066 L/C. D. Rodwell, 6282180 Pte. G. Randerson, 6282184 Pte. A. Tugwell, 6595901 Pte. S. Welfare, 6282142 Pte. E. Young.

DISCHARGES.

6279998 Pte. E. Lucas, 6282282 Pte. S. G. Joy, 6282285 Pte. H. W. Butts, 6282238 Pte. J. Cook, 6282171 Pte. C. Sandford.

4th Battalion.

INFANTRY.

4th Bn. The Buffs.—Capt. (Bt. Maj.) L. B. Grant relinquishes commission (February 28th, 1922) under A.O. 166/21, as amended by A.O. 331/21, and retains his rank.

RE-ENGAGEMENTS.

6281003 C.S.M. A. J. Whaley, re-engaged for a further period of Four Years as from 25-1-24.

6281146 Sergt. A. Philpott, re-engaged for a further period of One Year as from 22-2-24.

6281049 Pte. A. Fuggle, as from 18-2-24; 6280764 Pte. W. Holton, as from 12-11-23; 6280861 Pte. J. Wells, as from 14-1-24; 6280858 Pte. J. Wood, as from 30-12-23.

DISCHARGES.

6280905 L/S. E. Mantle, 6280901 Cpl. F. Burchell, 6281320 Pte. R. Holness, 6280751 L/Cpl. C. H. Smith, 6280954 Cpl. F. Obbard.

ENLISTMENTS.

6282312 Pte. W. Gower.

Army Bandsmen.

The King's Regulations have been amended by the new provision that the N.C.O.'s and Men included as bandsmen or acting bandsmen in the establishments of regiments of Household Cavalry, regiments of cavalry of the line, battalions of infantry or units of the Royal Tank Corps, will be effective soldiers, perfectly drilled, and liable to serve in the ranks. The numbers authorized by the respective establishments will not be exceeded, but boys enlisted by special authority for training as musicians, and not included in the authorized numbers of bandsmen, may be clothed as bandsmen provided that no expense to the public is caused thereby.

Army Officers and the Air Force.

CONDITIONS OF SECONDMENT.

The period of secondment of regular army officers to the Royal Air Force will in future be four years, including preliminary training. Officers seconded, must have at least two years' commissioned service, and be between 22 and 28 years of age on the date of secondment. They will be required only for training as pilots and those with no previous flying service will be preferred. Although normally, officers will be granted temporary commissions, they will be eligible for promotion on their temporary Royal Air Force commissions during their period of secondment, and for selection for permanent commissions in the Royal Air Force. During their seconded service they will receive the Royal Air Force rates of pay and allowances of their Royal Air Force substantive rank, and the period of seconded service will count towards retired pay under the same conditions as if the officers had remained with the Army. They will wear the service uniform of the Royal Air Force and the mess dress of the Army, and will receive a grant of £25 towards the cost of Royal Air Force uniform.

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No. 293.

April, 1924.

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Personalia.

A RECENT visitor to General the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, P.C., tells us that our Colonel is looking better than he has done for a very long time.

We hear that Major and Mrs. Henry Hardy will be returning from Gibraltar shortly, accompanied in all probability by Captain and Mrs. Eric Strettell.

We congratulate Lieutenant J. R. Willows on his engagement to Miss Marjorie Champion, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Champion of Ickham, Nr. Canterbury. Miss Champion's charming representation of The Goose Girl in The Depot Pantomime will be remembered.

The rapidly growing association of Ickham with the Buffs is interesting, no less than four Buffs having met their fate in that village, namely Major Eric Norman who married Miss Baird, the sister of Captain H. H. C. Baird, Major Henry Hardy and Captain Sydney Maiden who married sisters, the Misses Robertsons, and now Mr. J. R. Willows.

Incidentally on hearing of Lieutenant Willows' engagement, we threatened to publish an article entitled "Ware Ickham" in this number, but when this threat became known in this delightful and charming village it was suggested that a much more suitable title would be "Ware Buffs." We wonder!

Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Eaton is very busy making his arrangements for his annual fishing trip in Norway: he hopes to get away early in May.

In this number we had hoped to have published a long string of names of those intending to be present at the Annual Dinner, The Past *v.* Present Cricket Match, and the Regimental Golf Meeting, but at present practically no acceptances have been received.

Quite frankly this disappoints us. Early intimation of all these events have been given by special request to enable acceptances to be published in advance, so we particularly ask all our readers to refer to the announcement on page 125.

We again earnestly appeal for snapshots and black and white drawings for publication in *The Dragon*; and also for more news relating to the doings of officers of both Battalions. In this connection it should be noted that faint prints or small ones containing much detail will not reproduce satisfactorily.

Whilst we are always glad to publish results of all sports events and news of an official kind, we would also much like to include short accounts of life in general in the stations where our Battalions happen to be quartered.

Captain H. H. C. Baird has been appointed to serve on the committee of the Canterbury Branch of the Kent County Emigration Committee as representing The Past and Present Association.

The newly-appointed Assistant Chaplain-General, Southern Command (the Rev. J. D. S. Parry-Evans, C.M.G., F.K.C.), has paid his first visit to the Verne Citadel, to his old regiment. In days gone by, he was Chaplain to the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Buffs at Dover for five years. On Sunday, February 24th, he preached in the morning and evening at the Garrison Church to large congregations, and the Band played delightfully at both services. The Assistant Chaplain General, who was the guest of his old friend, Major Norman of Portland Castle, visited all parts of the Verne Citadel, lunched at the Officers' Mess, called on the Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes, and on various old comrades of days gone by. It was all a very happy reunion, and left a wealth of good feeling behind.

Mr. H. W. Maxted, late The Buffs, and now the genial landlord of Evenhill House, Littlebourne, has very kindly consented to act as agent for *The Dragon* in his district: he disposes of a dozen copies monthly.

Major C. E. H. Druitt, M.C., from the General Reserve of Officers, has been posted to the Reserve of Officers of The Buffs. This officer was originally appointed a second lieutenant in the 6th Service Battalion when it was formed in August, 1914, and afterwards served with the Machine Gun Corps on various fronts. He was mentioned in despatches and given the Military Cross for conspicuous courage in action.

Lieut. E. G. Chambers, from the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers, has been appointed to the 4th Battalion, The Buffs. He was an officer of another battalion 1917-20.

Lord and Lady Harris have returned from the West Indies.

Congratulations to:—Colonel and Mrs. Harold Findlay on the birth of a daughter; to Major and Mrs. Miles Beever, a son; and Captain and Mrs. Dean, a son.

We hope to see Lt.-Colonel J. Crookenden at the Canterbury Cricket Week, his tour in Northern Nigeria terminates in June. He has been playing polo with some success, his team being victorious in the open championship cup in January.

Personalia—Continued.

The Executive Committee was represented at the Grand Military Meeting, Sandown, on Saturday, March 22nd, by The Chairman, supported by the Secretary. The financial result of their attendance has not reached but the Associations' accounts have been audited and found correct.

On 9th March, a most interesting clay pigeon shooting competition took place at Canterbury. In the individual events, Major Guy Lee (using No. 7 shot) proved an easy winner. In the Past *v.* Present match, the latter won by 17 points to 11. Colonel Findlay, Lt.-Colonel Eaton and Major Dampier Palmer shot for the Past, Major Guy Lee, Captain Stronge and Captain Cook for the Present.

The following officers attended His Majesty's Levee on March 18th:—Captain and Brevet Major P. G. Scarlett, M.C., Captain B. E. Davies, M.C., and Lieut. T. H. Spear.

We regret to hear that Major J. V. R. Jackson's children are ill with measles. "Curly" however, is going strong. His tour of duty at Hythe expires at the end of the present course.

Private P. F. Tucker of the 1st Battalion D.C.L.I., and late The Buffs, writes from Lucknow as follows:—
"Please give my very best regards to R.S.M. Dare and C.S.M. Love: also remember me to Pte. Turner, Captain Morley's servant, from whom I should like to hear."

We wish a speedy recovery to Lady Bainbridge, who has had to undergo an operation at Dinard, where she and General Bainbridge have taken a villa.

General and Mrs. Hickson have left Dinard and gone to Brussels.

Lieut. C. R. B. Knight has been unlucky enough to strain his riding muscle whilst on leave and has been compelled to return to London for treatment.

Sergeant W. Deeks left the 2nd Battalion in March and has sailed for Sierra Leone for a tour of duty, where we wish him good luck.

Captain G. Hamilton has been in London during the past month, working for his promotion examination.

Mrs. and Miss Ravenhill, together with Mr. and Mrs. Barker, are on their way home from India. They intend to break the journey for about a month in the south of France.

We congratulate Lieut. D. S. Iister on getting into the final of the (Officers) Light Heavy-Weights, in the Army Boxing Championships held at Aldershot in the first week in March.

Major E. F. Gould returned to Ciboure (St Jean de Luz) early in March.

We regret to announce the death of Lady Raines, widow of General Sir Julius Raines, who was for many years Colonel of the Buffs. The wreath, sent by the Regimental Committee bore the inscription "from General Sir Arthur Paget and all ranks of the Buffs."

We regret to hear that Colonel Gardiner (Mrs. Power's father) has recently died at Cheltenham. Mrs. Power's return to Gibraltar has consequently been delayed.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.**BIRTHS.**

- Beevor.**—On the 16th March, at Wyke Regis, Dorset, to Phyllis, the wife of Miles Beevor, The Buffs, a son.
- Dean.**—At Sittingbourne on February 25th, the wife of Captain D. J. Dean, V.C., a son.
- Douglas.**—At Canterbury, on 2nd March, 1924, the wife of No. 7815544 Pte. R. Douglas, a son.
- Findlay.**—At Homestall, Faversham, on March 14th, the wife of Colonel H. Findlay (late the Buffs), a daughter.
- McNeir.**—At Canterbury, on 6th March, 1924, the wife of No. 6278534 Corporal C. R. McNeir, a son.
- Newby.**—At Eastling, near Faversham, on February 25th, the wife of Pte. Newby, a daughter.
- Newton-Moss.**—On the 5th March, at Boscombe Mansions, St. Leonards, to Dorothy (*nee* Beaumont), wife of Captain V. Newton-Moss, M.C., (late of The Buffs), a daughter.
- Smith.**—On the 23rd February, 1924, the wife of No. 6279042 Sgt. A. Smith, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a daughter, Joyce Margaret.
- Sidwell.**—On the 25th February, 1924, the wife of No. 6278552 Sgt. F. Sidwell, M.M., 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a daughter, Gwendoline Joyce Mary.

MARRIAGE.

- Fairbrass-Saunders.**—6279268 Pte. W. Fairbrass to Cissie Rosina Saunders at St. John's Church, Folkestone, on 29/1/24.

DEATH.

- Raines.**—On the 5th March, 1924, at 46, Sussex-gardens Hyde Park, Lady Raines, widow of General Sir Julius A. R. Raines, G.C.B.

OBITUARY.

The funeral took place at Streatham Park Cemetery, with Military Honours, on Friday, the 22nd of February, of the late ex-a/R.S.M. F. Wall, of the 1st Battalion The Buffs, who died as the results of war wounds. A Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Mahanney who officiated at the service at the church and grave side. The Cortage was escorted by R.S.M. Dare, Dr. Baker (representing the Regiment), ex-R.S.M. Bolton, G. Austin and McInnis of the Corps of Commissionaries.

The Cortége was met at the cemetery by Captain E. A. Carter, M.C., Sgt. Hills, J. Gadds, S. Hooper, late of the Buffs, and borne to the graveside by Captain A. E. Carter, M.C., ex-R.S.M. Bolton, R.S.M. Dare, and G. Austen. The Gun Carriage was provided by the War Office and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" was sounded by Dr. Baker. The mourners present were Mrs. F. Wall (widow), Mr. C. Wall (Brother), Mrs. Betts (Cousin) and Mrs. Denney.

Floral tributes were sent from his wife and son, Mrs. Betts, ex-R.S.M. Bolton and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Denney and Mr. Bladden, G. Austen and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Cone and Miss Babbs, Miss Murphy, Past and Present of The Buffs and the Staff of the Duke of York's School.

The late R.S.M. Wall joined the Buffs in 1898, the 1st Battalion in Kamptee in 1899 with the "Angle" Draft; all his service was in this Battalion. He was a keen soldier and sportsman and respected by all who came in contact with him. He was wounded in the Battle of the Aisne and severely wounded in the Battle of the Somme. He proceeded with the Battalion to the Rhine with the Army of Occupation and came home with Cadre as R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion The Buffs.

Extract from "Ferozeshah."

BY MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GEORGE MACMUNN, K.C.B.,
K.C.S.I., D.S.O.

SEVENTY miles out of Delhi, by the Great North Road lies an old cantonment, long derelict, named Kurnal. It was long famous after the days of Lord Lake as the frontier station of Upper India, and Sir David Ouchterlong long controlled frontier politics therefrom. To this day the Ouchterlong House stands, thanks to Lord Curzon, a public monument, with the alabaster lions on the gateways that the old General brought from Italy. The cantonment was transferred to Umballa a few years before the Sutlej campaign, even the church was moved, save for its tower and steeple, which also remains to this day. The vacant area was long occupied by the Stud Department and to-day by the Army Dairies. In the old low vaulted barracks now used as cowsheds, inside a domed roof, is a painted trophy of the Royal Arms and Cypher, with the battle honours of the 3rd Buffs, and the 3rd Light Dragoons, and a soldier of each corps in the full dress of the forties as supporters. Ever since, some loving hand in stud or Farms has repainted this big trophy, and the figures and uniforms are as fresh as when painted over eighty years ago—and hardly a soul to see the green memory."

Cornhill Magazine for December, 1923.

Memorials to the Buffs.

BY COLONEL R. S. H. MOODY, C.B.

I.

FIVE and thirty years ago there existed at Malta, as far as I can remember not very far from Coradino Prison, a small court yard open to the sky which had been paved by grave stones of men who had died at Malta during the Crimean War—most of these grave stones had been taken up and were leaning against the walls of the yard, and some few of them were in memory of men of The Buffs.

II.

At the time of the Chitral Expedition (1895) the 1st Battalion started a Memorial Fund and placed a small iron cross with name, etc., etc., on the grave of every soldier who died. Come of these should be on the summit of the Larem Pass, the next pass after the Malakand on the way to Chitral—more of these crosses must be in the Peshawar Cemetery and more again at Kamptee—I left the Regiment at Kamptee. Finding that our Memorial Fund was a good deal in credit, we used the same for placing in the Nave of Canterbury Cathedral a Memorial to all who died on the Indian Frontier.

Obituary.

The death occurred at 258, King's Road, Kingston, of Mr. Lewis Gunner, who for 17 years served in the 2nd Battn. The Buffs. Deceased went through the South African War and was one of 114 picked men of the Buffs and was severely wounded at Bleomfontein during Colonel Benson's last stand. He was awarded the Queen's and King's medals with two and three clasps respectively. In August, 1914, Mr. Gunner came up for service in the Great War and joined the East Surrey Regiment, serving until December, 1916, when he was discharged medically unfit. The funeral took place with military honours, and the arrangements were carried out by Mr. F. W. Paine, of Kingston.

New Governor of Madras.

Lord Goschen's Departure.

LORD Goschen, who during the war served as Colonel of the 2/5th Battalion of The Buffs, left England to take up the Governorship of Madras. He was the guest of honour at a farewell gathering of his old battalion at Frascati's Restaurant, London, on March 15th and was given the heartiest possible send-off.

Lord Goschen, who is 57 years old, has had considerable experience in public life, not only in England but in the Dominions. At one time he was private Secretary to the Governor of New South Wales. Before succeeding to the title he was for eleven years a member of the House of Commons, and during the war he served as Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture. He was, as a volunteer, A.D.C. to the late Lord Roberts when Commander-in-Chief, and until recently was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2nd/5th Battalion East Kent Regiment (T.A.).

He has had a wide financial experience, of a kind which is particularly valuable, if not indeed essential, to the Governor of an Indian Presidency, where financial problems are among the most acute of those with which the head of the administration is called upon to deal. In banking affairs he is a recognized expert. For some years he was chairman of the London County and Westminster Bank and is at present of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and also president of the Council of Foreign Bondholders.

Lord Goschen is a Knight of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem, and is a Deputy-Lieutenant for the County of Kent.

The Soul of Eton.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that the following letter which recently appeared in *The Times* serves as a striking example of that spirit which animates a community of long standing, and is known in a regiment as esprit de corps.

The Headmaster of Eton, at the commemoration of Armistice Day read a letter from an Old Etonian, afterwards killed, in which he asked whether he continued to have a place in Eton even when not remembered. The writer feared his faith might be called animism, "or some such horrible name," but he clung to the idea of becoming after death more completely a part of the school than when he was an active member of it.

Whatever horrible name the fact may be called, surely it is a fact, and a highly important fact, that a school does have a soul—a soul made up of the component members, past, present, and even future—and that this soul does make its mark upon and shape each new member until he in his turn, and according to his measure, makes his mark upon the common soul. That schools, regiments, and countries are living beings in no mere figurative sense, but as a matter of cold, scientific fact, is not half well enough recognized, as the letter shows. The writer might have had perfect assurance that he did, and for evermore would, live in Eton. And we who are not Etonians might have assured him that Eton is one of the noblest factors in the making of England. England, Eton, the Regiment, are real beings with characters of their own, not mere collections of men and boys—this is the point. And a definite recognition of it would increase that sense of wholeness, feeling for the whole, *esprit de corps*, which is such a valuable antidote to the vague internationalism which would mix all human beings up in a pudding mess.—*The Times*.

The Past and Present Association.

IT has been decided that the pamphlet shall be handed to the printers, Messrs. Gibbs of Canterbury, on the 26th of March.

An initial order for 7,000 copies is being placed.

BADGE.

The tender submitted by Messrs. Gaunts, of Birmingham, for the supply of Association badges has been accepted, and an initial order for 1,500 badges has been placed.

It is hoped that these will be available for issue early in April, to all Life Members and Ordinary Members who have paid their annual subscription.

ADMINISTRATION.

Colonel H. Findlay took over the secretaryship of the Association and editorship of *The Dragon* from Major C. D. K. Greenway on the 10th of March.

The Officer Commanding The Depot has kindly placed extra office accommodation at the disposal of the Committee, and a telephone has been established, Number:—Canterbury 513.

DONATIONS.

Consequent on the propaganda now being instituted, several generous donations to the Association have already been received, a list of all such will be published in *The Dragon* from time to time.

COMMITTEE.

Lieut.-Colonel F. B. Burns, Commanding 4th Battalion, The Buffs, has been co-opted as an additional member of the committee.

ANNUAL DINNER.

It has been definitely decided that the Annual Dinner will be held in the gymnasium at the Depot, on August 2nd at 7 p.m., preceded by the annual general meeting at 6.30 p.m.

The price of the dinner exclusive of wines will be 5/-.

The Contractors have been instructed to cater for about 300; the committee trust that this estimate may be exceeded.

SANDHURST MEMORIAL.

The Committee is still £18 short of the £100 required to put up the panel in the Chapel at Sandhurst, to the memory of officers of the Buffs, one time Cadets, who lost their lives in the Great War. They would be grateful if intending subscribers will forward their contribution as soon as possible.

Cheques, not exceeding £2 2s. 0d., should be made payable to the Sandhurst Memorial and forwarded to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, Depot the Buffs, Canterbury.

Subscriptions have been received during the past month from the following officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions:—Majors L. H. Smith, H. S. Hardy; Captains G. F. Hamilton, D. A. Wilkins, N. G. Vertue, N. A. H. Fox; Lieuts. C. R. B. Knight, A. F. St. A. Turner, D. S. Lister, G. L. B. Oliver; 2/Lieut. C. Haggard.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The Cathedral authorities have approved of the service being held in the Warriors' Chapel on the afternoon of August 3rd.

Parade at the Depot at 1.45 p.m. for service commencing at 2.15 p.m. The service will last about half-an-hour.

It is hoped that the Memorial Book will be completed in sufficient time for it to be handed over to The Dean and Chapter for safe keeping at this service.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES.

The following additional Area representatives have been appointed:—

Colonel E. T. Buttenshaw, Hythe.

Captain Somerset Webb, J.P., Romney.

The committee has decided to appoint additional

area representatives, whenever and wherever possible, and it is hoped that eventually Buff Representatives will be functioning in every town in Kent.

PATRONS.

The undermentioned have accepted the invitation of the committee to become Patrons of the association:—

The Lord Mayor of London.

A. M. Fleet, Esq., J.P.

Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Rogers, D.S.O., J.P.

The Mayor of Maidstone.

Major the Hon. J. J. Astor.

Major Lord Teynham, J.P., D.L.

The Mayor of Ramsgate.

Commander C. Bellairs, M.P.

The Mayor of Bromley.

Sir W. H. Crundall, J.P.

E. W. Hussey, Esq., J.P.

Many others have been invited and it is hoped that the above list will shortly be considerably augmented.

CANTERBURY CRICKET WEEK.

In order to relieve congestion, and by kind permission of the Kent County Cricket Club Committee, it has been decided to erect a separate tea tent on the ground during the cricket week as adjacent as possible to the enclosure, the space formerly taken up by the tea and service tent will thus be available as additional seating accommodation for viewing the game.

The proposal which was submitted to the vote of the members, that the enclosure should be made available for all members of the Past and Present Association on Saturday, August 2nd, has been carried.

EXHIBITION.

Provided suitable accommodation can be acquired in Canterbury, it has been decided to organize a "Buffs' Exhibition," during the Canterbury Cricket Week.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

As a result of the recent circulation of bankers' orders to past and present regular officers, we are pleased to announce that up to date no less than £55 has been subscribed to the Fund.

The following assistance has been rendered to ex-Buffs and their dependents during March:—

Feb.		£	s.	d.
14.	Assistance for Old Buff out of employment	1	10	0
21.	Grant to assist old Buff	0	10	0
	Grant to help old Buff out of work	1	0	0
26.	An old Buff, 62 years of age, in need of spectacles; we bought them for him	0	7	6
	Buff out of work, tried to re-enlist but is a year over age. Did a day's work at Depot	0	15	0
27.	Old Buff destitute	2	0	0
	Grant to buy tobacco for old Buff who is in a home. (a year's supply costs)	0	12	0
	Grant to Old Buff who is out of work through illness	0	10	0
Mar.	1. Grant to enable man to pay railway fare and to buy a little food	0	10	0
	5. Grant to help man out of employment. Nothing coming in	1	0	0
	6. Grant to assist old Buff who is unemployed and has a large family, none of whom are earning	1	0	0
	Grant to help old Buff	2	0	0
	7. Grant to help old Buff who is suffering from consumption and has no pension, has a wife and child to keep	1	0	0
	8. Grant to assist man out of work; wife and two children	1	0	0
	11. To help out of work Buff to pay off arrears of rent	1	0	0
	13. To help old Buff who is out of work and is tramping about the country	0	10	0
	To assist old Buff who has five children to provide for, and is waiting for a job he has been promised	2	0	0
	To assist old Buff who is unable to work and who is trying to get an increase in his pension	1	0	0
	16. To help an old Buff to pay his railway fare and live for a week until he obtains the work he is promised	0	15	0

The Committee are pleased to note that several of those assisted have agreed to refund these donations as opportunity occurs: such action will permit of assistance being given to additional applicants.

The 1st Battalion.



THIS month we have been suffering from what optimists call "Most unusual weather," and what pessimists call—well I do not think we need mention that. The hospitality of the Fleet, however, makes up for a great deal. Even as I write, there are a group of officers preparing to go to sea for a ten days' trip.

WAR MEMORIAL.

The Officers' Mess War Memorial, in the form of a Drum Majors' Staff, arrived from home the other day, but it was little like the design chosen, and I understand it is to go back for alterations. It ought to be very fine, if it is ever properly executed.

HUNTING.

Hunting is in full swing and everyone who can goes out each Wednesday and Saturday. Arrangements are now being made for the Point to Point meeting in which there is a Buffs' team race and also a Regimental Race for the Buffs alone. Five miles of typical country, will be a pretty stiff test.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

The Mess is a dull spot at the best of times these days, few dine in, as there appears to be a dance or some other show on every night, and most of the officers are such popular chaps that they are in great demand. There are usually a few Misogamists, and the Orderly Officer to be found regretting the good old days in the evening.

THE NAVY.

We were glad to see our old friends *H.M.S. Royal Sovereign*, and *Revenge*, which ships sheltered our colours during the Turkish "Box-up." Their hospitality is boundless. The Mess did wake up a little the other night when the officers of *H.M. Submarines M2* and *M3* came to dinner, and apparently, submerging can be done ashore as well as afloat.

PERSONAL.

We were interested to see that Lt. Thorne-Thorne has been playing for the Army several times, and that Lt. Lister won his boxing championship. We have welcomed back Major Hardy, Captain Canston, Lt. Wale and their wives, also Captain Vertue, this month. 2nd Lt. Mallam has been posted to us but has not joined us yet.

Captains Peareth and Strettel have been attached to the local staff, but have now come back to the fold.

The next of the news will be found in the company notes.

T.R.R.

A COMPANY.

Once more we must report that the land of the "Rock Apes" still exists and has not yet been handed back to Spain, but it has been overheard that it is about time it was, as "Bangers" is "brownied off" with it.

Life has been much happier this month on account of the Navy being here. We have had plenty of dancing, football, etc., and needless to say, many bold nights and sad mornings.

Capt. Essell has left us to attend a Course at the Small Arms School and we hope he will manage to obtain the Buffs' usual "D."

On the 10th February we had the pleasure of welcoming Major Hardy and Lieut. Wale to the Company and the former has taken a great liking to whaling while the latter is still "going his bold" on "bullseyes" and "inners," and we hope to see "bags" of cross guns weighing down the arms of some of our budding Wallingfords.

Pte. Fairbrass has rejoined us from leave in the U.K., and we are all certain that he had a good time as he got married: we all congratulate him and wish him and his fair young bride all happiness in the future.

Congratulations to Ptes. Bones and Cole on having transferred from the Canteen to the Corporals' Mess: we sincerely hope they will finish with red "tabs" on their collars.

A gentle voice is calling "Can you manage one" so "Adios" (some Spanish) until next month.

THE ROCK APES.

Things we want to know.

Is "Bangers" really "Brownied off"?

Why is the C.Q.M.S. so popular the beginning of each month?

B COMPANY.

First a warm welcome to Captains Peareth and Causton.

Dance.

During the month our weekly dances in the recreation room have been a great success and largely attended.

Sport.

In football we have been successful against our friends from The Snapdragon and the Commorant.

At hockey we have not been so successful losing by 6-3 to C in a friendly game.

We did especially well in the Battalion Novices Competition, Cpl. Hart and Pte. Fane winning their weights: Pte. Rigden won the runner up and best loser's prize. Pte. Robbins and Taft also did well.

B.P. AND M.

Things we want to know.

Is Hobbs still going strong?

Does Harry still want a 1/- and a Gunboat?

And how can he keep two homes?

Does Drummer C suffer from Sleeping sickness? or is it a short course of Death?

When is Daisy going to Soldier again?

Is Johns and Co. still Sanamo?

Has Kiwi joined the Rock Apes?

Why did Dasher refuse Soldier the 1/-?

And did he want the same thing himself?

C COMPANY.

Company Training has given us little time for pleasure, but plenty for our troubles and trials, though it has certainly been most instructive, and at times we thought, somewhat destructive, for it takes a good man to march up Scud-Hill at the pace, that was put on at times.

Several days found us scaling the upper part of the Rock from where one can get a very interesting view, but the steps take most of the interest out of one. Skirmishing and drill on the Race-Course also took up a good part of our time, and I must not forget to mention the "Night-ops" and the hopeless task of the Scouts, I had a good mind to get a Gharry to get through the Out-Post line, but none was available; had I had the luck to get one, I should not have got so wet as I did trying to get through the floods, etc., and the Veray Light display afterwards did not help things.

The last week found us bridging, with extra drill, if we fell in the water. On one of the days on this interesting subject we were visited by His Excellency The Governor. What he thought of our barrel-piers and Infantry foot bridges I don't know, but some of them caused great excitement at times (Extra Drill Cripps).

Another day found us making our canteens dirty (cooking out I mean), so now we can cook our own dinners, read and send semaphore, tie knots and build bridges, scale the rock, (but not from all sides), remedy L.G. stoppages; also with luck we should remain the best shooting company after all the musketry practice we have had: in any case we are looking forward to seeing the bulls go up in a week or so; at present we are busy creating our trousers for guards, etc. As regards sport we have had several practice games of football, and great credit is due to the lads of the Company who entered the Novices Boxing Competition and who did so well: we should have a good team for the Harris Shield Competition.

D COMPANY.

This month we congratulate the company on their splendid shooting, averaging 124.4; and especially the old 1.45 p.m. wallahs who created quite a sensation in their demand for cross-guns. No small thanks are due to 13 Platoon for the part they played in the scramble (see No. 3 "things we want to know"). Also special congratulations to Pte. Wellard (the Old 'un on obtaining the highest score in Part IV.

The old company "Platoon Shield" is again being played for: the events are football, hockey, bayonet fencing, and cross country running.

In the first round of the football 16 lost to 14 after extra time, the score being 5-1; 15 beat 13 by the only goal of a strenuous match; and in the finals 14 beat 15, 3-1.

The bayonet fencing proved both amusing and interesting, 14 beat 16 in the first five fights, and 13 losing to 15 by 5 to 3.

The finals proved an easy win for 15, winning the first five fights and finishing up with an exhibition bout, by Lash up and Stow and Spud, thus leaving 14 and 15 a tie with 3 points each.

The company bayonet fencing team added two more points to their laurels by beating "A" Coy. on their own ground.

Football has been by no means in the background; several friendly games have been played, the two most prominent being with the Gibraltar Reserves and E.T.C. whom we beat by 1-0, and 3-1 respectively.

1st Battalion—Continued.**Things we want to know.**

How much would Badger accept for his job, and does his Harem indicate a return to turkey?

How does "Lash up and Stow" find Bayonet Fencing? And need he go to sleep over it?

Did first place in piling arms competition, damp a certain platoon's spirits for football in the afternoon?

Does a certain platoon adhere to the following rules of aiming:—?

1. Tip the Markers?
2. Shut both Eyes?
3. Wait for the Bulls?

Is it true that Crystal Palace has been hired for a certain other platoon, and will their tea-fight come off there?

W.H.P.

THE DRUMS.

In a month of wretched weather we managed to get a game with *H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth* to whom we lost by 5 goals to 1. Our heaviest defeat since we have been on the Rock; and also another against a civilian team who were lucky to effect a draw as we had practically all the game, but lacked our shooting boots.

We are indebted to L/Cpl. Allen and his small committee who are running a weekly whist drive, and considering the entrance fee is only 6d. and that he supplies refreshment and two prizes in addition, we are left wondering how he does it.

E.L.F.

Things we want to know.

Are there any Drummers who have recently fired their Annual Course, anxious to sell their "Guns," if so communicate with Beaney, Sims, or Wylie (The Dead-Eye trio).

MACHINE GUN PLATOON.

February finds us going strong owing to the Navy being here, providing us with many good football matches.

On the 27th we played them on the Naval ground and lost by 4-3 after a most exciting game, but what could we expect. The Navy were Giants compared to our poor little centre forward, Pte. Belcher, though of course size did not worry our poor little forwards.

In the return match on the Little Bay Ground, on the 29th, the result was a draw.

Sports in the form of Bayonet fighting, Football, and long distance running and tug-of-war are now in full swing. In our pull against the *H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth*, which nearly all the battalion turned out to see, we were, alas! pulled to nowhere, but just before the first pull a voice rang out, saying

"You do not need to put in a pass to see all that is on one of the Naval boats, the sailors will pull you aboard!"

We hear that Pte. Harris, late M.G.P. has put in for promotion and we all hope he will get it.

Things we want to know.

Why did Joe (Cpl.) do the Boston two-step whilst bayonet fighting (23 group) against the *H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth*?

Is it correct that "Ding Don" has undertaken to supply the Corporals' Mess library with books, and how does he obtain them?

The Fighting Forces.

WE have received with pleasure and perused with interest the first issue of "The Fighting Forces," a quarterly magazine, edited by Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Whitton, C.M.G., and published by Gale and Polden, Ltd.

The various articles are full of instructive information and the whole work profusely illustrated. Messrs. Gale and Polden are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have presented the work. We would very strongly recommend all officers making a point of seeing this first issue.

The following are some of the contents:—

The European outlook by Professor A. F. Pollard, M.A.

The Air Situation of The British Isles and Empire by Admiral Mark Kerr, R.N., C.B., M.V.O.

Coaching in the Services by Major-General Geoffrey H. A. White, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Hunting for Infantry Subalterns by Major C. T. Tomes, D.S.O., M.C.

Service Stations (1) Plymouth, by Olive Sandford.

When the Harness is Unbuckled.

(1) The House: How to get it and what it costs, by Vashte Whitton.

Another Lion.

BY LIEUTENANT JOHN CHESTER, THE BUFFS.

I HAD the luck to-day to bag another lion in a ridiculously easy manner. I was walking round the Zareba with my jet black Sergeant-Major, pointing out weak places to him, when the Head Syee came up in a state of wild excitement and reported a lion had taken one of my milk goats not a mile outside the boma.

Thoroughly incensed at the loss of the goat, I determined to go out and try to bag this lion. Milk goats are precious here, as I am 600 miles from the nearest settler and so unable to send over to an adjacent farm for milk.

I returned to my hut, got my rifle and told my orderly to get ready to come with me. As soon as I was ready I set off, first going to the cattle Zareba to get a guide. It was now about 10.30 a.m. and the sun was getting rather unpleasant, and I hoped I had not far to go.

On questioning the guide, I was told that twenty minutes fast walking would bring us to the spot. I had walked for about ten minutes, and then turned round to ask my orderly something and discovered my Somali bugler, a lad of about 15, had attached himself to the expedition. I ordered his immediate return and much against his will, he went home. I felt very sorry for him, but was afraid too many cooks might spoil the broth.

Eventually, we arrived at a small clearing in the bush, in the edge of which the goat had been taken. I thought that the lion would not be far away as the sun was hot, and also that we should find him lying up under a bush enjoying his kill. I sent the gindi about 400 yards up-wind to watch from an opening, and yell if "Leo" broke on that side; and in the meantime I and my orderly started walking very slowly and quietly through the bush. After we had gone about 20 yards, I saw the grass all broken and crushed where some animal had been lying. I went still more carefully with every sense on the alert, as the bush was decidedly thick and I did not want to be caught napping. I was a few paces in front of my orderly and like this we continued our advance, peering round bushes and not making a sound. Suddenly, I came right on the top of the lioness: she was standing looking at me not 25 feet away with the dead goat at her feet; she made no attempt to move and for the space of about a second we stared at one another: then I decided something ought to be done pretty rapidly or fur might fly.

I aimed at her head and fired—she dropped, gave a few spasmodic snaps of her jaw and moved no more. I waited a couple of minutes and then threw a stick at her to find out if she was playing possum, and having decided she really was dead, I had a look at her. Her measurements were just under eight feet and her coat was in rotten condition and she had a lot of sores where thorus had pricked her, so I am afraid the skin will not be much of a trophy. Anyhow, I have avenged my goat!!

I am feeling rather pleased with myself. I wrote to Rowland Ward about my big Rhino and he sent me out a list of records and according to that, mine is the tenth biggest shot out here, the biggest is 52½" and mine is 36" and the average is under 20". The other one I shot was only about 16".

I have recently returned from a three weeks sojourn all along the Abyssinian Frontier: it was very interesting and I managed to bag Oryx, water-buck, gerunuk, grant, and of course the little Dik-Dik.

J.C.

Cricket Coaching (Batting).

BY AN OLD COUNTY CRICKETER.



IF all small boys in the Preparatory Schools were taught the first movement in batting, if nothing else, it is submitted that amateur cricket would improve by fifty per cent. The first movement is made by a turn of the wrists and a bend of the elbows bringing the bat up on the line that the ball is making. Movement is so often a habit of mind that, when once formed, it is difficult to change.

A good cricketer may be a bad coach because he has never mastered the principle of batting. His first thought is how did I play that stroke. If the stroke under discussion reminds him of his own play—it is right. If not, wrong. The strange thing about it is that he often does not know how he played it. It was played in obedience to an unconscious habit of mind. To coach boys the coach must have learnt the principle of batting himself. No coaching is of much value unless it appeals first of all to the reason. A demonstration may then be retained in the memory and eventually the right habit of movement will be formed. Nothing is more deceptive than a physical movement.

We have had to change our views as to the shape of the world, of the movement of horses, and any boy who watches the school hero will be fascinated by his eccentricities rather than by the method of correcting them. "The two-eyed stance" is a deceptive expression which has led many astray. What does it mean? Has any batsman with two eyes ever played with one only? If it means that the left shoulder of a right hand batsman should point to the square leg umpire, why is it that batsmen, who are to any extent successful, move the left shoulder to where it must be, *i.e.*, nearly under the mouth to play a ball on the offside with power and accuracy?

There is always a principle at the back of everything. It is that fundamental truth by which things can be measured.

THE PRINCIPLE OF BATTING.

What then is the principle of batting? First of all let it be said that we are not playing at a ball. That is stating only half the truth, we are playing at a ball that is never in the same position. It would be more correct to say we are playing along the line the ball is making. A line as high as the top of the ball and as wide as its width. The principle of batting may be described as adjusting the movement of the bat in such a way as to meet this line correctly. If the bat never meets this line, it will never touch the ball. If it meets it from the beginning to the end of the stroke the ball cannot pass the bat. The longer the bat meets the line the greater the probability of playing or hitting the ball.

It has been said that it does not matter how the bat is taken up provided that it meets the ball along the line it is making: but if the bat is not brought up on this line when the ball would hit the wickets, it must cut the line unless the error is corrected. If the bat is brought up on this line it will naturally fall on and continue on it. Is it better to start with an error and correct it or to have no error to correct? A tendency to error will have its way sometimes.

We are only dealing with the ball that would hit the wicket. The young beginner must first realise that he is to meet the line that the ball is making by bringing the bat up on this line with the wrists. Development will then take a natural course. The foundation of a style will thus be laid which can be adjusted to play the difficult ball. If the style is adapted for the loose ball the good ball will find its way past: but if the style is adapted for difficult bowling, there will be plenty of time to deal with the loose ball when it comes.

Coaching is worse than useless, and only causes confusion of mind, if the first movement is incorrect. It appears to be the custom in many schools to coach the older boys only. If the little boys were taught the first movement, it is urged that, the coaching of the older boys would be comparatively easy.

The Southern Cross.

BY JACKY JACKY, LATE 2ND BATTN.

EMIGRATION is a topic now taken up in this Journal for the benefit of the Past and Present members of the regiment. I, therefore, take the opportunity of informing my comrades of my experience of Australia wherein I passed the happiest fourteen years of my life and I may say the most prosperous.

Many are aware of my quitting Hong Kong for the Antipodes, a land I had not the slightest knowledge of, with my wife and kiddies. The voyage was uneventful but on arriving I became quite at home for I was met on every hand with kindness and whatever assistance—barring cash—I seemed to need, and it was but a few days after a rest that I dropped into a billet. It was a hold undertaking on my part, no doubt, but if one is to get on in this world one requires a little grit.

The country is the most beautiful, both from a scenic and health point of view, the people charming, always happy, gay and hospitable. There are no such bodies as Boards of Guardians or such places as work-houses, but there are Benevolent societies all over the country to whose funds *all* subscribe to help the weak. Every individual *must* work or be on the move in search of it, otherwise he or she is locked up for having unlawful means of support, consequently there are no beggars. It is a land where plenty of money is to be obtained by the thrifty hands and clear brain of the man—if he gets away from the cities—and without in any way having to debar himself from enjoyment by way of sports of all kinds.

To those who contemplate making a move out, my advice is take the first job offered, no matter the wage, then keep your eye open with a view to bettering your position and never allow the grass to grow under your feet. To make friends of the "Cornstalks" you must be straight and above board in all your dealings, for a spade is a spade with them.

My advice to young men or, to middle aged, especially to those who have knowledge of horses, cattle or agriculture is to make a move out there and work out your own destiny, for I am sure what I have seen others do, you can do, *viz.*,—become owners of property and the proud possessor of a good balance at the bank.

I have done well. Go you and do likewise. and save yourself in body and mind. Then return thanks to the Committee of the Past and Present Buffs Association for their endeavours on your behalf.

With England over populated, and unemployment so prevalent, there is a great opportunity awaiting young and middle aged, strong and healthy men in the British Colonies with millions of acres to cultivate.

Porter and Punishment.

(from *The Times* of 29/2/24).

ONE hundred years ago last Wednesday *The Times* was "happy to state" a piece of what it considered, or jocularly professed to consider, "important intelligence." "The Officer of Hussars, who was 'lately sent to Coventry by his brother-officers, for 'drinking a glass of porter after his cheese, has been 'restored to the harmony of his mess.'" Evidently the offence and its punishment were common knowledge, for the culprit is called "the Officer," not merely "an Officer." The shocking story had flown over the length and breadth of England. Everywhere decent people were horrified. Before the crime was committed the criminal was doubtless a gentleman and a soldier of honourable record. We are inclined to think that he was a Major: not a shy subaltern nor a brisk martinet of a captain, but a Major; for Majors are of sufficient standing in the mess to warrant a little singularity in behaviour, yet lack the august responsibility of Colonels. Major So-and-So had, we doubt not, fought at Waterloo or Quatre Bras; he may have been through the Peninsula. And then one day the guilty craving became too strong for him. We can picture the scene. The Major has already dined well enough, as the late FRED EMNEY would have expressed it, to do what he liked. He calls for porter. Only Hussar discipline prevents the servant from betraying his horror. The porter is brought with trembling hand; snatched from the flickering salver and quaffed with a bravado that miserably peters out in the deadly silence. Waterloo, Quatre Bras, the Peninsula, all is forgotten. He is no longer Major-So-and-So. He is the Officer who drank a glass of porter after his cheese. An age which was recently called in these columns "the flashiest and 'most vulgarage in English social history'" suddenly asserts its sense of propriety. Even under KING GEORGE IV. there were things that were "not done." One of them was drinking porter after cheese.

Had it been unconditioned, the Officer's deed would seem to show his good taste. To those who can digest them, porter and its kinsmen are quite as good, with or after cheese, as a light port. But nothing in the world is single or simple. The porter, we may be confident, was not the Officer's only drink at that dinner. He had been drinking wine; and to drink beer after drinking wine is, says MR. GEORGE SAINTSBURY, a French habit. Are we on the track of the true heinousness of the Officer's action? Was he doing that which befitted only Froggies and Mounseers? Patriotism and taste joined to ruin him; and no GEORGE SAINTSBURY, with wise, scrap-book notes on "The Order of Drinks," was at hand to save him. He had been corrupted by much campaigning in foreign parts, and had never learned, or had forgotten, the golden Saintsburian rule; which (to put it briefly) is beer before wine, wine before spirits. But, having offended, he took his punishment like a man, went to Coventry, and returned, we doubt not, a stern disciplinarian, so that, when he succeeded to the command, he maintained uprightly the true order of drinks in the mess.

There are moments when we wish that the reformed offender, or the brother officers who drastically reformed him, would come for awhile among our peccant acquaintances. Then we might read with relief in *The Times* of to-day the important intelligence that the gentleman who drank more than his share of the claret after ruining his taste with three cocktails, or the lady who smoked a cigarette between the courses and threw the end of it into her half-empty champagne-glass, had been sent to—not Coventry, for someone in this chatterbox age would be sure to speak to them, but to—shall we say?—Blackpool or Southend, till they should have learned better manners.

Hawley Smart and Portland.

HAWLEY Smart, before he became a novelist, was an officer, serving in the 1st Regiment Foot in the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, and afterwards with the 17th in Canada. His numerous novels excel in military, racing, and hunting incidents; but one of his novels *Broken Bonds* is largely about Portland and of the escape of two convicts from the Prison—"the iron-bound rock of Portland, which glowers o'er the smiling waters of Weymouth Road, like some old-world monster."

He describes it as "Island, yet no island—a caprice of nature this singular headland. Made an island, probably, at the time of that great upheaval which separated Great Britain from the continent, the waters have ever since endeavoured to repair the havoc of volcanic fires, and by their ceaseless wash have piled up that marvellous natural breakwater called Chesil Beach, which connects the Rock with the mainland. There is something very singular to a shrewd observer in walking through the Isle. He cannot but recognise that the four or five miles which he has traversed since leaving Weymouth have placed him, in some sense, in a foreign country."

In days gone by, the Verne Citadel and the troops therein played a big part when a convict escaped from Portland Prison. Hawley Smart describes it thus: "The big gun has boomed out the intelligence over Portland Harbour. A detachment of the Garrison are doubling down to Chesil beach, to draw a cordon of sentries across it. Morning breaks, and discovers the black flag flying on the staff at the Verne. The quick regular tramp of many feet, some forty or fifty shadows hurry by, and occasionally a rifle gleams: it is the picket, on its way to the beach."

But in the story, one of the convicts, who has obtained a disguise and money, manages to get into the Weymouth train at Portland station. He is, however, detected by "a smart lance-corporal of infantry" belonging to the Verne, who is travelling in the same carriage:—

"What part of the Rock may you hail from?" inquired the corporal, addressing Blades (the convict).

"I comms from Reforne, I du. You'd know, loikely, the Spotted Dawg; I lives just below he."

A country girl pricked up her ears and said audibly, looking curiously at Blades, that she had never heard of that house in Reforne, though she'd lived there all her life.

Moreover, "the keen-eyed corporal, that inquisitive non-commissioned officer" had caught a glimpse of Blade's prison stockings, of blue, hooped with scarlet.

"Ah! Mr. Blades, you little think as you affect to sleep in your corner, what ideas are floating under your *vis-a-vis's* forage cap." And at Rodwell station the convict is given in charge.

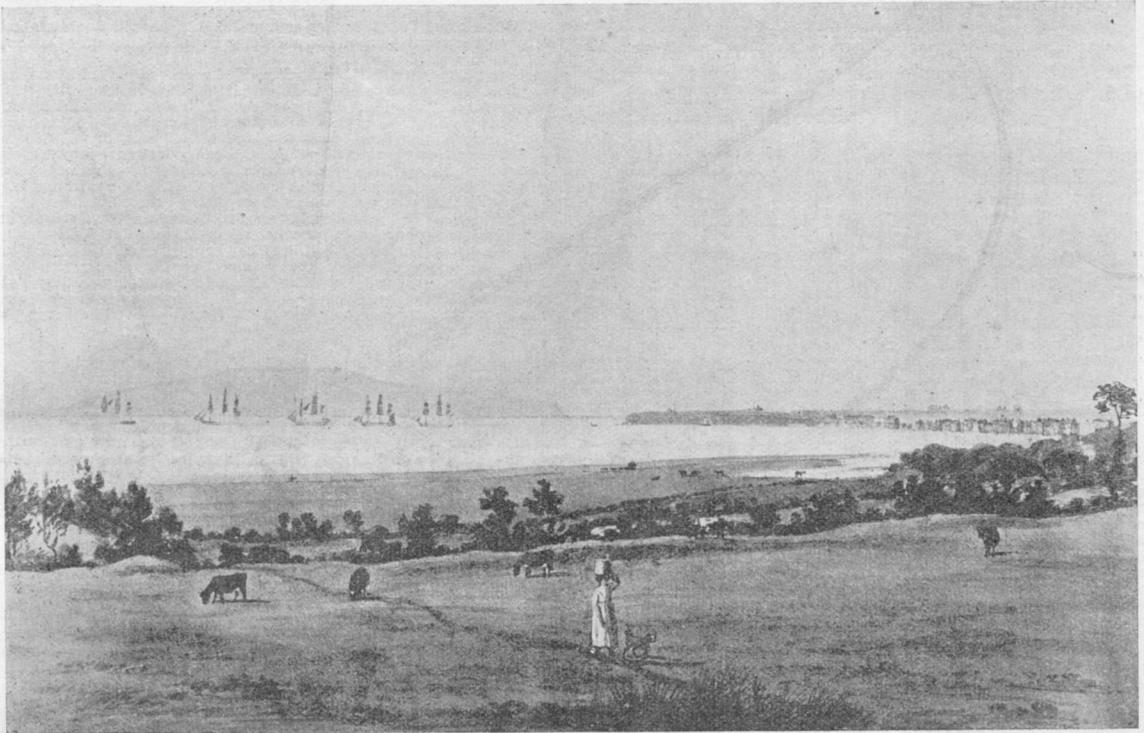
"Mr. Blades abandoned his first murderous idea of burying his knife in the corporal's diaphragm, and submitted quietly to his destiny."

And when his captor bade him goodbye, he remarked "If you hadn't been so uncommon handy with that Spotted Dog, I'm not so sure I'd have suspected you."
H.P.

Telegram.

Editor *The Dragon*, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

Please remind your readers about 8th Battalion dinner on April 12th, at 7 p.m., at the Mitre, Chancery Lane, tickets to be obtained from Gordon Lindley, 10 Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, Kent.



Weymouth, with Portland in the distance.

The 2nd Battalion.



OUR Battalion Correspondent has left us to go on a course at Aldershot, and it is with a certain amount of diffidence that I take up my pen to try and fill the gap; however, here goes!

We have not had any great excitement during the last month. Training has taken up most of the time of "A" and "B" Companies, who are busily engaged in Section and Platoon Training, while "C" Company are left to do guards and fatigues. No. 13 Platoon of "D" Company have returned to the Verne from Red Barracks, leaving a very small detachment there.

The Assistant Chaplain General, the Rev. J. D. S. Parry Evans, C.M.G., paid us a visit and preached

at the Parade Service on Sunday, February 24th; he was for several years the chaplain to the 1st and 2nd Battalions at Dover before the War, where he will no doubt be remembered by some of our older soldiers.

Another visitor during the month was the Chief Inspector of Educational Training, who visited us on February 28th, and was apparently quite satisfied with what he saw.

Wednesday and Saturday afternoons recently have been devoted to Harris Shield Football Matches, the results of which are given below. Captain Howe's new and very excellent form of entertainment, Organized Recreation, takes place every Tuesday and Thursday.

Outside Harris Shield matches, we have not done much in the way of sport. There have been only two Battalion matches. The first, a Soccer match against Portland United, which we lost by 6 goals to nil. As "D" Company was playing "A" Group H.Q. Wing that afternoon, the match can hardly be called a real Battalion match. Our second match was a hockey match against the Navy, which was played on March 10th. This we also lost, but only by 6 goals to 5.

We are very sorry to hear that Lieut. Lister and Lieut. Hamil-Stewart were not successful in the Army Boxing Championships at Aldershot, but wish them better luck next time. Lieut. Lister disposed of his man in the semi-finals inside two minutes but met his match in the Finals in Lieut. Courtis of the R.A.S.C.

Before closing these notes we should like to extend a hearty welcome to Captain R. M. Watson, who has recently joined us after his long employment in Paris. At the same time we have to say "Good-bye" to Major Whitaker, who is leaving us, to be employed with the Scottish Command, and also to 2/Lieut. Mallam who has gone to the 1st Battalion; to both of them we wish the very best of luck.

FOOTBALL.

On February 23rd we played Portland United on their ground, and lost by 6 goals to nil. Our team was:—

Goal:—Pte. Reynolds; Backs:—L/Cpl. Wickham and Pte. Wellard; Halves:—Sgt. Page, Sgt. Sidwell, (Captain), and Pte. White; Forwards:—L/Cpl. Burton L/Cpl. Foad, Pte. Gosling, Pte. Leach and L/Cpl. Riley.

2nd Battalion—Continued.**HOCKEY.**

We played the Navy on their ground on March 10th. The result was a win for the Navy by 6 goals to 5. The Battalion was represented by the following: Goal:—Sgt. Sidwell; Backs:—Pte. Lee and Cpl. Pack; Halves:—Cpl. Robinson, Lieut. Penlington and Lieut. Turner; Forwards:—Lieut. Foster-Hall, Cpl. Ward, Lieut. Cartwright, L/Cpl. Tutt and Lieut. D'Arcy Symonds.

HARRIS SHIELD FOOTBALL MATCHES.**Results.**

"A" Group H.Q. Wing beat "A" Coy.	... 3—0
"D" Coy. beat "B" Group H.Q. Wing	... 2—1
"C" Coy. beat "B" Coy.	... 4—2
"D" beat "A" Group H.Q. Wing	... 2—1
"C" Coy. drew with "B" Group H.Q.	... 1—1
"A" Coy. drew with "B" Coy.	... 3—3
"A" Group H.Q. Wing beat "B" Coy.	... 5—1
"D" Coy. beat "C" Coy.	... 4—0

THE CORPORALS' MESS.

The last month has, on the whole, been one of the best we have had since we have been home, with two billiard matches and a smoker.

The smoker we held on 23rd of February—naturally we started off with the "Ceremony of the Most Honourable Dido," conducted by the Very Reverend—Father Wilson. Several young hands were initiated into the "Brotherhood," and whether it was the beer or Miss Hughes' ham sandwiches, which made them laugh, one does not like to say, but they all seemed happy enough, especially Langdon, who was found singing—Hair-hair-hair—I've got none on my noddle!

Later in the evening members of the "Sergeants' Mess" trickled in and all did their bit: we finished up by everyone shaking hands with everyone else. Father Wilson saw the "Dido" home and found it under his pillow next morning.

On March 1st we played the Sergeants' Mess at Billiards and got "canned" by nearly 150. It was a squared deal anyway, because they drugged our team with old ale.

On Monday we lashed ourselves out in our best bibs and tuckers and sallied forth to do battle (on the billiard table) with the Conservative Club at Easton. When we got there the Reverend asked a native if that was the "whatservative Club"—the other replied "Yus!" Burton and Wilson won their games; it takes a lot of "purge" to upset them. Anyway Wilson talked his man over. Or was it the jazz socks?

Another "smoker" has been arranged for the end of March, and if it is as big a success as the other one even the "Jazz Queens" will have nothing to grouse about.

THE REVEREND.

Things we want to know.

Is it right that Wass is in dock with growing pains?

Who is the N.C.O. who warned his Coy. Sergeants for Sergeants' Mess Fatigue—and did they enjoy it?

What do Tug Wilson's four wives think about it all?

Who is the Optimist? who is a 3rd class shot and has a set of cross guns in his kit box?

Who is the L/Cpl. who keeps a set of full corporal's stripes in his box—and will he get a prod?

Did Buffy write that letter? the one he put in a week-end pass to write.

Does Oliver think beefsteak is good for a black eye?

What will happen when both the N.C.O.'s in "B" Coy. want to wear the overcoat?

B COMPANY.

Under the command of Capt. Howe, we are now busy with Company Training which is in full swing. We are glad to have Capt. Howe and Sgt. Howard back to the Company after their long spell with the Battalion Training Cadre.

All the N.C.O.'s have been through a Section Leaders' Course and everything is O.K. in that respect. We have had one or two Battle stunts and have been in Portland Bill once, or near it.

We are pleased to have Lieut. Knocker with us for a time and hope it is for good.

The Harris Shield Football is in full swing and of course we are taking a part, though unfortunately a minor one. The results of our matches are as follows:—

Against "C" Coy. lost 2-4. Against "A" Coy. drew 3-3, and against "A" Group H.Q. Wing, lost 1-5.

To make matters worse we have lost one of our best players, L/Cpl. Payne, who has gone on a P.T. Course. We wish him luck, and may he get right through.

We managed to find some good talent amongst the Draft from the Depot in L/Cpl. Drake, Pte. Bishop, Pte. Green and Pte. Leach. Leach has played in all our Harris Shield matches, and has scored in all of them. We are hoping to do a bit better in future matches.

Things we want to know.

Who was the N.C.O. who kissed the canteen girl for a bottle of "hair-oil"?

If the steak was done after 20 minutes? (Ask Leach).

Will Chippy treat No. 10 if he gets the guns this year?

Who was the man who said the "Titanic" went down in 1837?

Will "Beaky" go back to the Sergeants' Mess, and what was he doing when sent out as a scout?

J. J.

C COMPANY.

We welcome C.S.M. Potter as our C.S.M.; he will doubtless help keep up the reputation of the old Company. We are not "Danker" "C" as O.S. used to term us.

Four games for the "Harris Shield" have been played by us, and we have not done too badly. We beat "B" 4-2, drew with "B" Group Hd. Qr. Wing, 1-1, and lost with "D" 4-0, and drew with "A" 2-2, after leading by two goals, up till the last three minutes of the game, when something happened and our team let "A" score 2.

We are all very sorry to lose L/C. C. Foad, our Centre-forward, who has gone to Tidworth on a P.T. course, in which we wish him the best of luck. Congratulations to him and Miss M. H. N. Garrett, and may good health and prosperity follow them through their lives.

L/C. Riley is sick, which makes another loss to the team, still we are not at all shaky as we can always find a substitute. Cpl. Robinson has played very well at centre-half, and has now taken L/C. Foad's place during his absence. L/C. Saunders and Pte. Church are the safest backs that ever was: then there is Sgt. Joy who plays a very good game, but is inclined to hang on the ball too long. When he loses, "Bunny" chews hard at his spearmint. Anyway, we will congratulate him on getting his 2nd Class Certificate.

Major Whitaker's Departure.

Our greatest loss of the month is the departure of Major F. Whitaker, M.C., whom every one in the company simply loves, and it is on behalf of the whole company, that these insufficient lines are written in trying to express their regret. There does not even seem to be a hope of him coming back before the four long years of his tour are over, anyway we all wish him and Mrs. Whitaker, the best of luck and good health, and what is more, we hope to see him again at some future date, and we hope at the Regimental Dinner.

Things we want to know.

When is "Stumpy" going to indent for a new S.D. cap?

Can he get one to fit him?

Where did O.S. get his "night glasses"?

Who is the N.C.O. that walked out in town with one brown and black boot lace in his boots. Was he in "Luv"?

Has Pim Shelton and Lanes bought the Depot yet?

Who is the man who went into a grocer's shop for a shave, and was she pretty?

Who said that "he did not have a pair of trousers to his feet"?

Is "Tich" learning by music or by ear, and when will he change his tune?

Why did he fall out on running parade, was it his ankle or music?

Digs.

"B" GROUP, H.Q. WING.

Everyone's interest is at present, centred on the Harris Shield Football Competition. This year the competition is far keener than usual, three teams being very evenly matched, namely A and B Groups H.Q. Wing and D Coy., the present holders of the Shield.

Our first match of the Shield was against D Coy., and this proved to be the fastest and most exciting match that has yet been played in the Competition. There were 24 Rattles on the go and everyone shouted themselves hoarse, and anyone would have thought it was a cup-tie match. Soon after the game started a penalty was given against us but our goalie, Clara Reynolds, made a brilliant save for which he deservedly received deafening applause. Reynolds played the game of his life and repeatedly made almost impossible saves, running out and clearing and falling full length. Wellard and White worked like Trojans, in fact all the defence went all out. The forwards tried hard to score but had hard luck. At half-time the score stood at 0-0. In the second half Sgt. Sidwell dropped back centre-half and put Chalky White up Centre-forward, which I think was a great mistake, as Chalky White was nearly dead beat and was unable to do much. Sgt. Sidwell took a penalty kick and scored. Our opponents managed to score two goals in the second half, neither of which our goalie had any earthly chance of saving, and we eventually lost 2-1. Buffy Ward refereed with his usual skill and impartiality.

Our team was as follows:—Goal: Reynolds; Backs: Wellard, Walls; Half-backs: Conisbee, White, L/Cpl. Moss; Forwards: McGrath, Knapp, Sgt. Sidwell, Atkins, Godden.

Our next match was against C Coy., when we thought we had a fairly easy thing on but received a prod, as C Coy. have quite a good forward line and managed to find our net. This game was not as exciting as the previous one and it ended in a draw, 1-1. The defence played well as usual but our weak spot is our forward line who do not seem to be able to get their shooting boots on, and they will not shoot unless they are on top of the goal. We ought to have won but our goalie ran out too far to clear and our opponents managed to pass him and they had an open goal in front of them. Cpl. Ward refereed as usual.

A Company were our next opponents and although we were far the stronger team we only won by 2-0. Our forwards gave a poor display, frequently missing open goals when only a few yards off goal. The same trouble as usual trying to get right on top of goal before shooting, even though they had a fairly strong wind in their favour in the second half.

Our defence played well and kept our opponents out in the first half when they had the wind in their favour.

Sgt. Sidwell scored our two goals, one from a penalty and the other a run through. Our next match is against A Group, H.Q. Wing and no doubt this will be a hard fought game.

O.S.

Things we want to know.

Who was the M.G. Instructor who was sending M's for S's and J's for P's in semaphore and said he was trying to catch 'em?

How often does "Tashy" visit the barbers?

Who was the Pet who tried to put his arm under his stick and did he say that he heard Tashy smile?
 Is it right that Felix is a qualified signalling instructor?
 Who was it asked for a skein of red ink?
 Who was it that translated our Regimental motto to mean "Veterans for ever green?"

M.G. PLATOON, H.Q. WING.

Pets' Corner.

Pip put in for a week-end leave with his young lady but somehow he seemed disappointed when he came back. He had another one next week-end. Is it to dodge Church Parade or some other reason? Pip must be feeling very snaky lately as several times a lot of bones, etc., have been found on his bed at night.

Squeak is still having trouble with the girls, and is playing fast and loose with their susceptible hearts. It is difficult to say whether it is his looks or his railway socks that captivates them. His 24th victim is the barmaid of the "Adelaide." The other day he sent her a letter saying he was too ill to go out, but was seen the same evening with the "Duchess." One evening he was seen walking along with the New Testament hanging on his finger by a piece of ship's rope giving his Bessie a few tips on the feeding of the 5,000.

Wilfred has been fairly quiet lately. The only thing worth mentioning is that he was airing his knowledge of Hindustani and received a shock when he discovered that the Lady in the Soldiers' Home understood Hindustani.

Aunt Emma has had a disappointment. She asked Winnie for her photo but was unlucky, although she has not given up hope as Winnie has asked for her's. In the meantime she is rather sweet on "Tashy" and says she is going to give her a razor blade as a present. Whilst returning from leave she got in a carriage with two Jewesses and held their skeins of wool while they wound it. Couldn't she have fixed it on their noses, and did she clik?

Angeline has found her feet at last and took Phyllis to the Jubilee Hall and lashed out and went in the 2/4 seats. Did he buy a programme as he was seen to look at the Bill Posters outside a long while before going in?

Is Angeline colour blind as he gave a fire order "At right hand corner of red house, "Fire," and the red house turned out to be white Portland Stone.

Percy has slightly disfigured himself and he tried to say that a kit box fell on his nose. Since then our detective agency has found out that it was Checkerell Ciss, but have not been able to find out the cause of her attack on poor Percy.

Snaky went on a week end leave to see his Ethel and whilst on leave she gave him a cigarette holder about 12 inches long and told him to keep away from smoking. Is it true that Snaky is trying to cut out Rockbinder over Salvation Mary, for he seems to be well in with her Father, Salvation Joe. O.S.

The Army Association Football Cup.

IN response to a reader's request in the March *Dragon* we give below the list of winners of the Army Football Cup (Association) from its inception.

	<i>Number of Entries.</i>
1888-9—2nd Bn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders beat 2nd Bn. South Staffordshire Regiment [2-0]	44
1889-90—2nd Bn. Black Watch beat 2nd Bn. Scots Guards [3-1]	45
1890-1—2nd Bn. Scots Guards beat 2nd Bn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders [2-0]	46
1891-2—2nd Bn. Scots Guards beat 1st Bn. Scots Guards [2-1]	45
1892-3—2nd Bn. The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) beat 1st Bn. Sherwood Foresters [1-0] (after a drawn match 0-0)	47
1893-4—2nd Bn. Black Watch beat Royal Artillery, Gosport [7-2]	54
1894-5—Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) beat 2nd Bn. Black Watch [2-0]	64
1895-6—1st Bn. Royal Scots beat 2nd Bn. The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) [3-1]	58
1896-7—Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) beat 1st Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers [1-0]	54
1897-8—2nd Bn. Gordon Highlanders beat Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) [2-0]	52
1898-9—1st Bn. South Lancashire Regiment beat Army Service Corps (Aldershot) [3-0]	54
1899-1900—No Competition.	
1900-1—2nd Bn. Highland Light Infantry beat 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards [1-0]	44
1901-2—Details Black Watch beat 4th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers [1-0] (after a drawn match 0-0)	37
1902-3—Service Bn. R.E. beat 2nd Bn. North Staffordshire Regiment [2-0] (after a drawn match 1-1)	43
1903-4—Royal Marine Artillery beat Service Bn. R.E. [1-0]	72
1904-5—2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards beat Service Bn. R.E. [2-1]	77
1905-6—Depot and District Bns. R.E. beat 1st Bn. Cheshire Regiment [1-0]	79
1906-7—Depot Bn. R.E. beat 2nd Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment [3-0]	81
1907-8—4th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps beat 2nd Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers [1-0]	88
1908-9—2nd Bn. Royal Irish Rifles beat R.A. Shoeburyness [1-0]	87
1909-10—Royal Marine Light Infantry (Gosport) beat 1st Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers [2-0]	89
1910-11—2nd Bn. Sherwood Foresters beat 2nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry [3-1]	85
1911-12—2nd Bn. Sherwood Foresters beat 4th Bn. Middlesex Regiment [5-1]	84
1912-13—2nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry beat 1st Bn. East Yorkshire Regiment [1-0]	88
1913-14—Army Service Corps (Woolwich) beat 1st Bn. Hampshire Regiment [1-0]	91
1914-15 to 1918-19 } No Competition owing to the War.	
1919-20—R.A.M.C. (Aldershot) beat 1st Bn. Hampshire Regiment [1-0]	142
1920-21—R.A.M.C. (Aldershot) beat 4th Res. Bde. R.F.A. [1-0]	116
1921-22—1st Bn. Wiltshire Regiment beat 2nd Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers [3-1]	128
1922-23—R.A.S.C. (T.E.) (Aldershot) beat 2nd Bn. Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders [1-9]	103

The Past and Present Association,

THE BUFFS.



ARRANGEMENTS for 1924.

PAST v. PRESENT CRICKET MATCH,
 July 19th, at the Depot.

ANNUAL DINNER,
 August 2nd, at the Depot.

REGIMENTAL GOLF MEETING,
 October 2nd and 3rd, at Sandwich.

Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Secretary as soon as possible.

The Road of Great Endeavour.

STEP on! Recruit, the road you traverse now
 Needs mighty hearts to win a conquered way.
 Nigh on twenty generations of men
 Have carried o'er that road with fearless mien
 The Colours of The Buffs and Men of Kent.

Their many gallant deeds be-flower the way,
 Perpetuating noble hearts and lives,
 Make these your ideal and serve loyally.
 Keep your heart simple—simplicity is strength,
 No brave man yet had heart but as a child.

Heed not acclamation; seek no reward,
 In the seeking men oft-times lose their worth.
 March on, no other motive urging you
 But that your life be placed at England's need.
 If at the end your soul be clean and strong
 What need you more than simple stone inscribed—
 "Here lies a man."

H.

Wanted—A Title.

The prize of 10/- offered in our last number, has been awarded to: Sergeant C. Smith, Depot The Buffs. His Title was:—
 "Very good, carry on Sergeant-Major."

Regimental Balance Sheets.

IV. THE BUFFS REGIMENTAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.										
				£	s.	d.								
1921.							1921.							
Dec. 23.	By Commissioners of Inland Revenue being Income Tax recovered to 31/12/21 ...			77	18	0	Nov. 1.	To Registration Fees and Stamps on Power of Attorneys for transfer into name of Trustee of £4,328 13s. 2d. 3% New Zealand Stock and £3,710 5s. 6d. 3½% New Zealand Stock ...			1	3	0	
1922							Dec. 15.	„ Trustee's Acceptance Fee			7	14	10	
Jan. 1.	By ½ year's interest on— £3,710 5s. 6d. 3½% New Zealand Stock, 1940 ...			64	18	7	23.	„ Lloyd's Bank, Canterbury			76	6	10	
April 1.	£4,328 13s. 2d. 3% New Zealand Stock, 1945 ...			64	18	7	1922.							
July 1.	£3,710 5s. 6d. 3½% New Zealand Stock, 1940 ...			64	18	7	May 8.	„ Solicitors charges for preparing and Stamping Declaration of Trust ...			7	14	5	
Oct. 2.	£4,328 13s. 2d. 3% New Zealand Stock, 1945 ...			64	18	7	1923.							
1923.							May 7.	„ O.C. Depot for Buffs' Benevolent Fund ...			65	3	6	
Jan. 1.	By ½ year's interest on— £3,710 5s. 6d. 3½% New Zealand Stock, 1940 ...			64	18	7	Oct. 12.	„ Trustee's Income Fee on £597 6s. 8d. ...			11	18	10	
April 3.	£4,328 13s. 2d. 3% New Zealand Stock, 1945 ...			64	18	7	To Balance—							
July 1.	£3,710 5s. 6d. 3½% New Zealand Stock, 1940 ...			64	18	7	Cash on Current Account	£127	14	9				
Oct. 1.	£4,328 13s. 2d. 3% New Zealand Stock, 1945 ...			64	18	7	Cash on Deposit Account	£300	0	0	427	14	9	
	By Deposit interest on £300 from 4/5/23—30/6/23 ...			0	9	6								
				£597	16	2					£597	16	2	

Statement of Receipts and Payments for period 1st Nov. 1921, to 12th Oct. 1923.

Certified correct for the United Services' Trustee.

A. BRANDRAM,
Secretary.

V. THE 3RD BATTALION REGIMENTAL FUND.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.					
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Capital Account—							Cash—		
Balance ...				1,867	6	2	On Current Account ...		11 2 8
Income and Expenditure Account—							Investments—		
Balance ...				15	12	8	£800 5% War Stock, 1929/47		
							at 100 9/16 ...	804	10 0
							£100 5% Natl. War Bonds,		
							Sept. 1928 at 105½ ...	105	10 0
							£418 14s. 2d. 5% War Stock,		
							1929/47 at 100½ ...	421	17 10
							£541 8s. 2d. 5% War Stock		
							1929/47 at 98½ ...	535	8 4
							1,867	6	2
							Commissioners of Inland Revenue—		
							Amount deducted from interest on		
							Investments and recoverable ...	4	10 0
				£1,882	18	10			£1,882 18 10

Struck on the 23rd January, 1924: certified correct for The United Services Trustee.

A. BRANDRAM,
Secretary.

VI. THE BUFFS' COTTAGE HOMES.

(Struck on 30th November, 1923).

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
1923.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	1923.	
Jan. 1st.							
To Balance brought fwd.—						By Rates	15 18 3
With Cox and Co.	108	7	4			Funeral expenses, etc., for Sgt.	
With Lloyd's	104	0	7			Armistead	23 14 6
Petty Cash	0	13	5			Repairs	4 5 9
				213	1	Insurance	2 0 8
Nov. 30th.						Cheque book	0 5 0
To Subscriptions through							46 4 2
Cox and Co.	41	0	6			Balance	241 19 2
Subscriptions through							
Lloyd's	1	15	0				
				42	15		
To Dividends on Investments				32	6		
				£288	3		£288 3 4

I have examined the accounts of the Buffs' Cottage Homes and compared them with the vouchers and pass books and find them correct.

14th March, 1924.

A. J. LANCASTER.
Auditor.

BING'S
MINERAL WATERS

As supplied to the leading families of the neighbourhood, the Officers' Messes, and the principal Hotels and Clubs

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E. BING & SON
Chemists, and Mineral Water
Makers
— — CANTERBURY

Phone :—81, Canterbury.

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WE CATER FOR
SPORTS CLUBS

By supplying the VERY BEST

Sports Requisites

Mr. Secretary—May we quote you for your Season's Requirements ?



BROADCASTING

We are manufacturing Broadcast Receiving Sets (B.B.C.) under Marconi Licence which for efficiency and price compare very favourably with anything else on the market.

Wireless Expert, Mr. LESLIE GOULDEN,
39 & 40 High Street, CANTERBURY

FINN'S STORES St. Margaret's Street
CANTERBURY

Pick of the Basket.

(Letters, which should be kept as brief as possible, are inserted for publication on this page).

PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION.

Dear Sir,

May I make a suggestion in regard to your early intimation of the 1924 arrangements of The Past and Present Association. This is that a poster of these arrangements be prepared and that the leading Brewers of East Kent be asked to display a copy in every public house under their control. I am taking it for granted that you will use the East Kent papers for publicity purposes also.

Yours, etc.,

LIFE MEMBER.

NEXT TO NO NEWS.

Dear Sir,

For some considerable time, next to no news has appeared in the local press of the sports fixtures of The Depot. There must be many old Buffs other than myself who would like to hear each week the result of the Depot football, hockey, and cricket matches and I trust that publication of this letter will enable us to do so.

Yours etc.,

LINESMAN.

Dragon BOUND VOLUMES.

Dear Sir,

Having just received my bound volume of *The Dragon* for 1924, I should like to compliment you on the attractive way this has been got up. I have no idea as to the number of these bound volumes you dispose of. I only know how much every serving soldier, who does not take advantage of your binding offer, will regret his omission in after years.

Yours etc.,

VETERI FRONDESCIT HONORE.

The Dragon.

Dear Sir,

I should like to endorse your appeal for more photographs to be sent in to *The Dragon*. Without a camera myself, I cannot assist you, but there must be a considerable number of your readers who can, and what a wealth of material for interesting snapshots there must be in the life of the Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men quartered in Gibraltar, Portland, Canterbury, and all the outlying detachments of the 4th Battalion: and also in that of the old Brigade.

Yours etc.,

AN ENTHUSIASTIC READER.

"SCROUNGER."

Dear Sir,

May I point out, with reference to the article on page 110 of the March number of *The Dragon* that the word "Scrounger" is a pre-war word of some antiquity. Any old soldier of the 'bow and arrow' period will tell you that he has often met a 'Scrounger' in the Canteen.

Gunnersholme,

Melbourne Avenue,
Sheffield.

And so,

Believe me to be,
Yours very truly,

J.H.L.

TERRITORIAL SUNDAY.

At the recent quarterly meeting of the Kent Territorial Army Association, Colonel the Marquis Camden, T.D., presiding, it was reported that a Sub-Committee of the General Purposes Committee had been appointed to consider the re-organisation of Cadets and Voluntary Aid Detachments.

A donation of £18 was voted to the Territorial Army Sports Board.

The suggestion of inaugurating a "Territorial Sunday" in the country having met with approval, it had been decided to hold the parade on the first Sunday after Empire Day under local arrangements. It is thought this parade will tend to stimulate interest in the Territorial Army.

The Association had agreed to contract, where possible, with firms on the King's Roll only.

REGULAR OFFICERS.

Dear Sir,

During the time he was in England, in addition to helping me very considerably with corrections for the Regimental History (1914-1919), Major E. F. Gould also compiled a list of Regular officers who served in the regiment between August, 1914 and the present day, and the result may be of interest to your readers.

The total number, which includes officers who were already serving in August, 1914, is 235; of these, 65 were killed or died of wounds or sickness; the 170 survivors include 86 officers still serving.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. W. TOMLINSON,
Major.

94, Piccadilly, W. 1.

LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

The Mansion House,
London, E.C. 4,
March 5th, 1924.

Dear Sir,

The Lord Mayor will be delighted to be a Patron of the Past and Present Association of The Buffs and is much obliged to you for paying him the compliment of asking him.

The City of London is very proud of The Buffs.

Yours truly,

(Signed) WILLIAM SOULSBY.

Brigadier-General E. H. Finch Hatton, C.M.G.

SITUATION VACANT.

Married Couple required in June by The East Kent Club, Canterbury, as Steward and Cook, 35/- a week, free quarters, fuel and light. Applications should be sent through the Secretary, Past and Present Association.

**Picture Framing and Art Depot.
B. & W. FISK-MOORE,
Canterbury.**

Tel. 337.

Whaling off Gibraltar.

BEFORE I came to Gibraltar the word whale was not exactly unknown to me, or do I suppose to you; but it brought up dim visions of the frozen north, of the vast Atlantic, of Icebergs, and grey brown monsters of the deep. Much to my surprise, however, I find that Gibraltar is the home of whales.

Our natural history books tell us that there are various kinds of these animals. The Sperm whale, the Blue whale, the Fin-backed whale, and many such others; but here we can add to their number; for have we not got some in the Regiment, and is not the 1st Submarine Flotilla out here with the fleet?

To mention the sea monster first is only fair, in seniority of age; to follow that by the human Whale is only polite; and to conclude with a few words about the artificial species, those hideous death machines of man's fertile imagination, is sure to be of interest to those who do not know them already.

Picture a dismal morning in Gibraltar, an officer's servant called by the guard at the unearthly hour of five o'clock, followed by the groans of a fever-stricken-waking-officer, a jolly little breakfast at 6 o'clock, a cold and dismal jetty in the harbour at 6.45 a.m., a group of miserable-looking officers and other ranks trying to keep warm and straining their eyes for a glimpse of the expected boat, and you have the commencement before you of a whaling expedition.

We are soon on board a horrid smelly little craft, about 150 feet long, and a harpoon gun mounted on the bows. The crew are hefty-looking Norwegians, captained by one more hefty than the rest, with a strange resemblance to our worthy Captain Vertue. They are all smiles and we steam out into the Straits as the sun comes up to tint the sky and sea with pink. In a tub fixed on the top of a stout mast a look-out man is posted, with black spectacles, and a skinny wrinkled neck, for all the world like a human tortoise.

The motion of the little craft soon starts to play havoc with those who suffer from that nightmare of a complaint "mal de mer" (French!) when to our surprise breakfast is announced and down to the stuffy, smelly little cabin we go to partake of an excellent though rough breakfast with our host, the manager of the whaling company, who tells us many interesting things the while. Suddenly a shout from above causes those of us who have been contemplating abandoning our breakfast to seize the excuse to go up on deck, and others to bolt it in one, and join them. A whale has been sighted, and as we look, some hundreds of yards ahead a spout of water about five feet high is seen.

He is down for twenty minutes and the skilful Norwegians seem to know just when and where he will next appear. Suddenly, only 150 yards away, the great beast comes up with just his blow hole on the back of his head above the water, and with a great hiss, as of escaping steam, exhausts his lungs and refills them with pure air, his huge oily back of a brownish colour is just visible as his head goes down for another dive.

Bad luck, too far off for a shot. The gunner, who is also the Captain of the ship, at his post behind the gun, swings his strange weapon from side to side and shouts directions to the man at the wheel, on the bridge, in Norwegian. All on board are tense with excitement, one's eyes almost bulge out in staring this way and that for the first view of the blow. He usually comes up and blows three times in quick succession, just dipping between each, after a long dive—we are told—but last time he disappointed us and only blew once.

"Is he a big one?" "Yeas, aboot sixty fit foat, a goat whales."

"There he is! There he is! Look! just on the Port bow!"

The monster is only fifty yards away this time, over goes the helm and round swings the little ship,

listing over with the sudden change of course, and full steam ahead for the spot just ahead of his last blow, up he comes again with a great oily wash, and a roar of air from his blow hole, only just ahead of the bow, barely 20 yards. Bang! flash! goes the gun, and with a huge puff of smoke, and a plop, the harpoon hits the whale just in the centre of his massive back, but is deflected, and only pierces the flesh, bends, and the explosive head bursts outside, without giving him more than a flesh wound; but the shackles of the harpoon grip and hold him, and away he hoes, deep down at a terrific pace, the thick rope running off the steam winch like line off a fishing reel.

One, two, three hundred yards, the rope goes out the little ship gathering speed. Its normal speed being about nine knots is increased by the pull of this monster to thirteen knots.

No sign of the whale, he is struggling deep down, ever trying to get deeper, and travelling all out. But he has to breathe and his efforts have tired him, up he comes again as we see from the movement of the rope. The rope is now no longer running out. The wooden break on the winch, which smokes with the friction of his run, at last grips; and the ship is travelling at the whale's speed. He blows with almost an angry snort, and down he goes again.

For three miles we travel like this, at high speed. The gunner explains that the shot did not hit him in the right place and that he must give him another harpoon, a very unusual necessity. The poor beast has given us all his thrills, and now the nasty part begins. Very slowly he is wound in, struggling hard all the time. As he nears the ship he turns, at last, gallantly at bay, and swinging round, now on the surface every few minutes with great gasps, and showing his ghastly wound, with the twisted harpoon in it, he tries to attack the ship in rear. Rapid orders to the engine room prevent this, and as he turns so do we, until he is dragged so near to the ship that the gun can be fired again.

Bang! crash! another death dealing projectile is sent into him, this time he is hit low down, and the same thing happens again, the harpoon goes through and bursts outside; and now the game beast puts up one last desperate attempt to escape. Away he goes with his two wounds, and ropes, but this time only a little way. He is hauled in again struggling vainly, almost exhausted, and the gunner prepares to put an end to his agony. With a huge hand spear he spears him straight through the heart as he comes alongside, and with an awful hissing coughing noise he spurts a fountain of deep red blood from his blow hole, and, as the spear is withdrawn, from this third wound.

In a few minutes all is over, his breathing stops, and he is hauled tail first alongside. No sooner is he there than a great spiked tube is thrust through his side, and he is blown up with air by means of a steam pump, for all the world like a balloon, to make him float. The edges of his enormous tail, are cut off and he is towed home backwards and alongside.

Poor beast, poor harmless beast, and a magnificent animal, warm-blooded like ourselves, it seems a shame, but we must have soap and such things, and it would be hard to catch them humanely. Down we go to the cabin to drink the gunner-captain's health, and many are the questions that are fired at the wretched man.

A thrill! A wonderful thrill! but a horrible finish. On reaching port again, we visit the whale-oil factory, and we all regretted not having brought our gas helmets. It was rather sad to see the fine beast hacked up like butchers' meat and boiled down for oil within so short a space of his riding the seas so magnificently.

T.R.R.

(To be continued, on Submarines. That is, if the Editor can stand it.)

Some Reminiscences (Continued).

BY COLONEL R. S. M. MOODY, C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

CONSIDERING that I had been absent from the Battalion during the recent stirring events in its history, and that H. C. Somerset had been doing my work the whole time, I thought it right to place my resignation of the Adjutantcy in the hands of my Colonel: my reward was the handsome forwarding minutes placed on the document both by Parnell and by Sir Charles Pearson. I was given command of my old company (C), as Forster was acting as Major.

Lord Chelmsford had organised a second advance into Zululand, in two main columns or armies. He commanded one himself and had with him Wood (now Sir Evelyn) Buller and other good men. The second force was under General Crealock, lately from England; and The Buffs was one of his units.

There was, at this time, an extraordinary difference between seasoned battalions and those recently from home. The 90th, 13th L.I. Buffs and 57th (from Ceylon) were as good stuff as could be found anywhere, but this could hardly be said of some of the others. After the destruction of the column at Isandula, where only mounted men and Sub.-Lieut. Smith Dorian got away, the home picture papers had published most lurid fancy scenes of gigantic black Athletes overwhelming and destroying British soldiers, which pictures absolutely terrified the poor children who formed the greater part of the reinforcements sent from England, and I am ashamed to say, that in one or two cases, the fact that the few survivors of the great disaster, were almost all mounted men seems to have influenced even commissioned officers.

The enemy, when I returned to my battalion, was still full of fight, and several small bodies as well as larger "impis" were moving over the country.

It was not long after the second advance began that the Prince Imperial of France, with a small reconnoitring party, was surprised, and the Prince killed while trying to mount his horse. Capt. Moriarty's Company of the 80th too, was rushed at night, while camping on the Intombi river, and the Captain and many of his men killed.

There is no doubt that Chelmsford's Column saw far more fighting than ours did, and their success was not altogether uniform. At Zlobane the enemy handled the Cavalry and mounted infantry, under Buller, very roughly and our people only got square because the gallant savages followed up their success by a very resolute but unsuccessful attack on Sir Evelyn Wood, at Kambula.

BIRTH OF MOUNTED INFANTRY.

I ought to have mentioned earlier that it was during the troublous years 1877 to '79 that Mounted Infantry was first used, and on the open African Veldt it proved a most useful arm, and was of course extensively employed in the Boer war. Carrington of the 24th may be described as the originator of modern Mounted Infantry, and during this Zulu war he had under him a party of his own regiment with Lieut. Brown, who won the V.C., a party of the 13th L.I. and another of The Buffs under Lieut. Newnham-Davis.

I wonder if anyone remembers Sergt. Milne. He rejoined us from Rorke's drift about the same time that I did so from England. He had a strange career. Holding an engineering certificate, he opened the war in charge of the pont or floating bridge on the Buffalo River at Rorke's Drift, and when the attack was imminent, he, with four others, volunteered to moor the pont midstream and defend it from the deck. This being forbidden, Milne did great service inside the fortification. He came back to us because Rorke's Drift was now too peaceful and he wanted to see some fighting. Poor chap, afterwards, at Hong Kong I

think, he won a large prize in a lottery, bought his discharge, started for England via America and has never been heard of since.

It was unfortunate for us Buffs that we were in Crealock's force, for the movements of that General were certainly deliberate, and our work was done too cautiously to invite any attack. Each new position taken up in the interior was carefully fortified and provisioned by means of long trains of ox-waggons strongly guarded and laagered up each night.

ARDUOUS CONDITIONS.

So our duties largely consisted of making trips with empty waggons from Fort Chelmsford to the Lower Tugela, and returning with heavy loads, each double journey being a five days' job, and not a pleasant one as the rainy season was on, the troops marched without tents, and after man-hawling hundreds of vehicles through swollen drifts, had to entrench themselves throughly each night; moreover there is no doubt that we were not well fed. I remember being with my company on an extra strenuous job on one occasion, and that, on returning to Head Quarters, much exhausted and soaked with rain, we were consoled by the Quarter Master who comforted us with a complete change of diet in the form of bully mutton instead of beef. It appeared that he had a few tins of this "for trial and report." One of the minor horrors of the Zulu war, as far as the coast column was concerned at any rate, was the presence of myriads of ticks in the grass, which little devils used to wander over the soldier's body while he slept till a nice tender portion of his anatomy was discovered; there the pests buried their heads under the skin in order to suck the blood. Bathing became therefore, quite a solemn rite. Carbolic soap was used, and then the bather sat down and extracted all his guests from his frontal regions, afterwards turning his back to his chum and requesting him to remove the population which had formed a lodgement in rear.

Ulundi might be described as the capital of Zululand, as it was King Cetewayo's Chief Kraal, and our enemy was gradually driven back on this point, but for some reason or other it was Chelmsford's force, and not Crealock's, which reached the place though we were the nearer.

Sir Garnet Wolseley had been sent from England to supercede our well-loved chief. He tried to land on the Zulu coast, but a big friendly sea got up and prevented this so that his ship had to go back to Durban. In the interval Chelmsford totally broke the Zulu force at the battle of Ulundi, to the huge delight of the whole army.

The story went, that on landing at Durban, Wolseley telegraphed orders that no steps were to be taken till his arrival on the scene of action, and that Sir Evelyn Wood took the message to his General and handing it to him said "I think I would open this to-morrow, Sir, I believe it can very well wait." Next morning Ulundi was fought and won, and then, and not till then, the envelope was opened.

We were told that Chelmsford fully expected that our force would be at Ulundi before him.

This battle, was such a decisive business, that Wolseley had nothing left him to do but suppress a foolish nigger called Secokuni, chase the fugitive King Celewayo till taken prisoner, and assist in settling the future administration of the country, and disperse his army.

So The Buffs marched down the coast, over ate themselves on vegetables and fresh butter when they reached civilization, pitched Camp at Pinetown, which is on the road between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and awaited orders for embarkation for the far east.

Old Uniforms never Die, They only.....



The Tunic.

THERE is a perfectly true story of a traveller who, much impressed by the quaintly brilliant substitute for a loincloth on a coolie who met him in an African village, looked at it a little more closely. He discovered to his amusement that it was a tunic of British scarlet, worn in an inverted fashion never dreamed of by the smart Guardsman who once owned it.

Matching that is another story. After the war, when khaki equipment was being discarded by the hundreds of thousands, a more than usually inquisitive colonel had been imported into the Disposals Department. Surveying a mountain of much worn and muddied boots just bought up by an enterprising dealer he mused a moment.

"Yes, yes, glad to see the last of them; but what do you do with them?"

"Make 'em into ham, sir," came the response.

"Really, now. Most interesting, you know, but I should never have guessed it," said the colonel.

Nor would anyone else, however much "plum and apple" he might have cursed at in the Army.

The fact is, however, that of the enormous quantities of Army and Post Office and railway and policemen's uniforms that go out of service every year, only a minute proportion is destined for the rag bag.

There is an enormous overseas demand for the cast-off wear of our British soldiery.

Out on the North-West frontier, where tribesmen are restive, the call of the native is ever for more and more khaki or red or green; on the wide steppes of Russia, peasants are glad if they can buy it, turbulent chieftains in out-of-the-way corners of the world rig out their levies not the less proudly because of the patches on their western kit; labourers in the mining camps of South Africa or Mexico are as keen for cheap garments as colliers at home whose work at the coal face is not hindered by the fact that their breeches may have done earlier duty on a policeman or, fitly enough, an underground railwayman.

These utilitarian and practical purposes are eclipsed, however, by the brighter fates of the more resplendent garments. Strange to reflect that the gold-braided epaulettes of the bandsman playing outside Buckingham Palace may presently turn up on a Ruritanian general at a Chelsea Three Arts ball, or in the levee scene at the latest opera. Still more strange that they may quite likely adorn a real chamberlain or flunkey in one of the minor courts now so freely sprinkled over Europe; or that in a South American republican army half the splendour may be second-hand from Pimlico and London's East End.

For it is way down East, just beyond Shoreditch, that most of the faded or fading glories of the Army and other uniformed services go. One firm's annual contracts for the cash purchase of them ran into six and seven figures during the war.

Seven remarkable brothers, nearly all of them ex-officers and one of them a former Cambridge don, have developed this faculty for spotting the exact purpose for which a cast-off garment is wanted to an extent enabling them to secure the disposal rights over the entire "cast-off" clothing of the Army.

A typical instance of what that faculty means occurred the other day when Mr. Alfred Martyn, the senior of the brothers, was conducting a big Yorkshire materials merchant through the warehouses where thousands upon thousands of tunics, shirts, braces, ties, caps, stand in stack upon stack. A great unsorted pile of stuff was passed. "Not worth a cent," said the Yorkshireman, who is an authority in his way. Within an hour Mr. Martyn had sold the lot to another Yorkshireman at 1s. 3d. a pound.

The wonder is to find among all the worn but not worn-out material stacked away down East bales of absolutely new uniforms.

Surplus stocks? Yes. Out of date? No. L.D.



Military Courts of Inquiry.

An Army Council Instruction directs attention to the fact that should it transpire during the sitting of a Court of Inquiry that the character or military reputation of any officer or soldier is affected by the evidence put forward, the President must immediately arrange for such officer or soldier to be afforded the fullest opportunity of being present throughout the inquiry and of making any statement and giving any evidence he may wish.

Neglected Memorials.

The public are frequently pained when they hear that the grave or memorial of some notable person is in a state of dilapidation or is uncared for. With the hope of remedying this, it has been decided to revive the Society for Preserving the Memorials of the Dead, which had a vigorous existence for forty years. The first chairman in 1882 was the Earl of Carnarvon, father of the peer who took such a prominent part in the excavations at Luxor.

The society, whose address is 31 St. James's Street, S.W. 1., is having prepared lists of memorials requiring repair, and it will have under its supervision all memorials to notable persons and war graves and memorials in order to bring to the proper authorities the necessity for their immediate repair.

Machine Gun School.

It is officially announced that Qualifying Courses each for 30 officers and 100 other ranks, will commence at the Machine Gun School on 12th May and 28th July. A Senior Officers' Course will begin at the School on 21st July and Local Courses for approximately 10 officers or non-commissioned officers of the Territorial Army from each Command will begin on 8th April.

How to get "The Dragon."

FOR those wishing to receive the paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—

1 year 8/-, 6 months 4/-, 3 months 2/-.

Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

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“Beneath Bell Harry.”



WE have had some fun lately trying to find new offices for the Past and Present Association. The Depot loath to part with any rooms in use, has generously proffered all sorts of buildings, which don't belong to the Depot, to the secretary. He was offered a perfectly good stable the clerks could type in the loft—then a gardener's cottage, but the less said about this the better. Next he was shown a perfect palace with at least eight bed, three reception rooms and usual offices. True the

roof had fallen in and only the remains of a staircase were visible, but it might have suited the client had it not been marked down for demolition. Then, a bright idea, the old detention barracks! Each clerk was to have a separate cell, no window to tempt him from his toil, no fellow with whom to chatter and the guard room full of bells and gongs for the chief slave driver. But no! all this was of no avail. Our new Secretary had evidently paid a visit to the ideal homes exhibition and knew what was what. We had to relinquish the guest chamber in the mess, and we now hear that ex-Buffs visit their association offices not always on business, but often to feast their eyes on the splendour within.

The Depot is glad that the threat to move the offices into the town was not carried out as its present position is a great asset and convenience.

We had a great afternoon with a clay pigeon shoot. The Present beat the Past, chiefly owing to the good shooting of the C.O. Colonel Findlay produced a most efficient machine which is fired from the shoulder, the operator being able to change his position after each shot so that the gun never knew where to expect the next bird. Mr. Spear was doing well until obsessed by the spirit of slaughter, he loosed off both barrels at once—he was evidently trying to put up a box-barrage round the bird. Captain Cook was a dead certainty at times, but like all old soldiers, he wasn't leaving anything to chance and soon realised that the bird was easier just before it alighted.

Rumour has it that Captain Rice is coming to the Depot in place of Captain Morley. We shall welcome an addition to the hockey and cricket teams and wish him the best of luck. What shall we do without our star turn entertainer who has figured these last three years in each pierrott troupe and jazz band!

Outbreaks of foot and mouth disease at Shorncliffe and in the Faversham district have finally closed down the hunting all over Kent. Pte. Bone, in deep mourning was seen exchanging oats for bran at the forage barn. Yet we hear that the point to points are to be held. The farmers are most long-suffering, and it is hoped that it will not cause any renewed outbreaks.

We are busy rolling out the cricket ground, and if this weather continues we shall see a cricket net set up before long. It is always good to shake off an English winter.

FOOTBALL.

Cinque Ports' League.

DEPOT v. NORTHAMPTONS AT SHORNCLIFFE.

This resulted in a draw, one goal each, after a delightful game in which all our team played well. As we had previously beaten the Northants in the competition this makes 3 points we have taken from them.

Friendly.

DEPOT v. BAPISTS AT DEPOT.

The Baptists were not strong enough for our team and we won comfortably by 4-1 after a pleasant game.

Recruits' Matches.

v. R.A.M.C.

Won by us 5-1, in a match in which the medico's were not allowed to have much of the game: this match avenged a previous one in which we were beaten, 4-3.

v. LANCER SQUADRON, CAVALRY DEPOT.

Draw, 2 each, after a good game. Several new men were tried who showed promise but had a poor idea of team work.

v. R.A.M.C.

This resulted in a draw of 2 goals each. Again we tried fresh men, some of whom did not reach their reported civil standard, but will probably be useful bye and bye when they get used to Army football.

v. LANCER SQUADRON CAV. DEPOT.

A very good game in which the Lancers did their best to down us, but we held out and won by 2-1.

HOCKEY.

The following are the results of the hockey matches played by the Depot since the new year.

- Sat. Jan. 26th. v. Ashford at Canterbury. Lost 0-3.
- Wed. " 30th. v. St. Edmund's School at Canterbury (Away). Lost 0-3.
- Wed. Feb. 6th. v. 1st Battalion The King's Own at Shorncliffe. Lost 1-5.
- Sat. " 23rd. v. Ashford at Ashford. Draw 1-1.
- Sat. Mar. 1st. v. Sittingbourne at Canterbury. Won 2-1.
- Wed. " 5th. v. St. Edmund's School at Canterbury (Home). Draw 1-1.
- Sat. " 8th. v. Small Arms School at Canterbury. Won 3-2.

The season, on the whole, has been a disappointing one from the Depot point of view. The greater part of the matches have been lost, though the team has been more successful and has played better together during the last few matches, as the above list will show.

The last match, against the Small Arms School, was a most exciting one. The School led by 2-0 at half time, but the Depot, who had the assistance of Captain Rice and Lt. King on this occasion, showed up much better in the second half than the visitors and eventually won by 3-2. Captain Rice and Lieutenant King, who are on a Weapon Training Course at Hythe, were a great addition to the Depot side and it was greatly due to them that the Depot won. The Depot goal scorers were Sgt. Coaster (1) Lt. R. M. Webster (1), L/Cpl. Evans (Cavalry Depot), (1).

R.M.W.

Inter Squad Shield.

Won by L/Sgt. Beasley's Squad after a very close competition indeed as will be seen by the following:—

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cross Country Run : | 1. L/Sgt. Beasley. | 2. Sgt. Fawcett. |
| Rounders. | 1. Sgt. Coaster. | 2. Sgt. Fawcett. |
| Football : | 1. Sgt. Smith. | 2. L/Sgt. Beasley. |

L/Sgt. Beasley thus winning by the narrow margin of 1 point. Our next competitions will be Boxing, Rounders and Basket Ball and the top squads will be again seriously challenged by the lower squads.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

The following are the results of the Whist Drives held during the past month:—

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ladies. 1st. | Hand Bag. | Miss Williams. |
| 2nd. | Purse. | Miss Pebble. |
| Gents. 1st. | Fountain Pen. | C.S.M. Love. |
| 2nd. | Plated Ink Pot. | Sgt. Osborne. |
| Ladies' Booby. | Phial of Scent. | Mrs. Bunning. |
| Gents' Booby. | Eversharp Pencil. | Mr. Gale (late R.E.) |
| Ladies. 1st. | Salad Bowl. | Miss Evans. |
| 2nd. | Fruit Dish. | Mrs. Edwards (Chartham). |
| Gents. 1st. | Silver-mounted stick. | Sgt. Rowe. |
| 2nd. | Silver Cigarette Case. | Sgt. Osborne. |
| Ladies' Booby. | Small enamelled fork. | Miss Williams. |
| Gents' Booby. | Small enamelled knife. | Mr. Bunning. |
| Ladies. 1st. | Hand-made wool rug. | Mrs. Smith (R.E.) |
| 2nd. | Blouse hangers in case. | Mrs. Roberts. |
| Gents. 1st. | Safety Razor and brush. | Sgt. Ongley, D.C.M. |
| 2nd. | Bronze Ink Stand. | Mr. Foreman. |
| Ladies' Booby. | Poling of Sausages. | Mrs. Prime. |
| Gents' Booby. | Stroy (little beauty too). | S. S. Wadkinson. |

Beneath Bell Harry.—Continued.**St. Patrick's Day Dance.**

A most enjoyable Dance was given in the Gymnasium on St. Patrick's Day, the building being absolutely packed, but not to such an extent as materially interfered with the freedom of the dancers. We were delighted to see our Commanding Officer there together with Mrs. Guy Lee and, between ourselves, we fully believe he absolutely revels in coming to our happy little gatherings. In any case, we love to see him there, and when he looks happy, then we feel happy too. A number of the Cavalry Depot Officers and Sergeants were also in attendance, and they, too, are always cheerfully welcomed. Little "Ossie" of the Muscle Department, whose birthday falls on the 17th, was there you may be sure, and this year celebrated it within reasonable bounds. Probably it is with a view to keeping a steady nerve for his Billiards encounter with the Depot Master-Tailor.

We really have but little news to tell you this month. Apart from Football and Hockey, the first quarter of every year is invariably an uneventful one. We are, however, looking forward to the cricketing season, although we are such a small Mess now that there does not appear much likelihood of our being able to put much of a team in the field. Still, a great number of the members play for the Depot Eleven, and it will not be very long before we shall see them at practice at the nets. W.O. Collins, our Educational Instructor, will be again available, to play this year, and with the assistance of R.S.M. Dare, Sgt. Coaster and Sgt. Beasley (a bowler in embryo) a powerful help will be rendered to the Depot team.

By the way, "Lottie" is a temporary bachelor and is dining with us in the Mess. Well, the other night—but there, we better leave it unsaid, as Mrs. Collins will no doubt read this issue of the good old *Dragon*. If we could only see her personally we'd tell her—how glorious those good old Yorkshire Pork Pies are.

And before we close, let us offer a hearty welcome to our new Editor, and assure him of our willingness to render any such little help as may be within our province.

And to Major Greenway who is leaving us, let us offer our sincere regrets that ill-health has compelled him to relinquish Editorship, and our very warmest wishes for his speedy restoration to a healthier and a happier condition.

W.M.S.

PRIVATES' WHIST AND DANCE.

Our Monday nights' Privates' Whist and dances are still being run very successfully and delightful evenings are spent.

Before the summer comes almost everyone will be in possession of a watch or safety razor.

The ladies' booby prize at the last drive was 3 lb. of fresh sausages so arranged that they were pulled out as a string. This caused plenty of fun as did also the gents' booby which was half a loaf, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of cheese and a spanish onion. This was won by our renowned billiard player and as he plays a brass instrument in the band at the dance afterwards "Nuff said."

Army Estimates.**A reduction of £7,000,000.**

FOR those who may not have the time or inclination to read a full report on the Army Estimates, as recently published, it is thought that the following extracts may prove both interesting and useful:—

The reduction in men is 2,800 and represents administrative economies affected in auxiliary services consistently with the announcement made in Parliament by the previous Government in June last, to the effect that while such economies would be continued, no policy of further reduction of the fighting armies was in contemplation.

INFANTRY ORGANIZATIONS.

The one Battalion of Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Royal Irish Fusiliers are in future to be "Linked" Battalions for the purpose of recruiting, drafting, and reliefs, while each will remain a separate corps for the purposes of promotion of the officers. The men will be liable to serve in either regiment and the separate depots now existing will be amalgamated.

RECRUITING.

Recruiting for The Regular Army during the current financial year has not been entirely satisfactory. It is thought that this may be due to an erroneous impression regarding a reduction in pay of men already serving, or enlisted before any reduction that might be decided on actually took effect, would be affected. Steps have been taken to remove this erroneous impression.

STRENGTH.

At the beginning of the new financial year the strength of The Regular Army is expected to be approximately 5,500 below establishment.

ARMY RESERVE.

It is expected that The Army Reserve will be approximately 10,000 stronger on 1st April, 1924, than it was on the same date last year; and it is hoped that the strength will be increased by allowing a certain number of men in the ranks to convert their remaining colour service into reserve service.

Much, however, will remain to be done before the Reserve will be adequate to mobilize the whole of the Expeditionary Force of one Cavalry Division and five Divisions.

MEDALS.

The bulk issues of the medals granted for the Great War have been completed.

The distribution of the General Service Medals granted in respect of campaigns subsequent to the Great War is still in its early stages.

SUPPLY OF OFFICERS.

It has been definitely decided to introduce a new form of Army entrance examination in June, 1925. The main idea underlying the new form is to make specialized study unnecessary for a boy who intends to make the Army his career.

Another recommendation accepted in principle by the Army Council is the system of promotion by merit.

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Satisfactory progress, it is considered, has been made in the general education of the soldier.

At the October examination for First Class Certificates, there were 1,360 candidates of whom 738 fully qualified for certificates, 199 partially qualified leaving only 31 per cent. who failed to gain certificates.

The organization of vocational training is also receiving consideration; soldiers during the last three months of their service are nominally struck off duty for an intensive course. The most promising are struck off for six months and sent to one of the "finishing" centres (Hounslow and Catterick) for practical work.

Hounslow mainly specializes in training for a trade. Catterick for agriculture.

The Hounslow centre has been very successful in placing men in employment, 70 per cent. of its students having been provided for.

The possibilities of Catterick in connection with settlement overseas will be further explored.

CLOTHING OF THE REGULAR ARMY.

It has been decided to make slight modifications in the present clothing of the men of the Army, involving no alteration in the dress of officers and no re-opening of the questions of a general return to the pre-war patterns of full-dress. The present rule that the Army is to wear, on all occasions alike, service dress of uniform war pattern, with no concession to either smartness of appearance or to the attachment felt by the soldier to the national and regimental traditions embodied in the time-honoured emblems of his regiment, has led in practice to the adoption of unauthorized "improvements," with undesirable results.

To remove any temptation to such irregularities in future the following modifications have been approved:—

- (1) To provide each man (unless provided with full dress uniform, as in Household Troops) with one service dress jacket of smarter cut, with metal collar badges and buttons of regimental pattern, in place of one of the two jackets he now maintains.
- (2) To issue white leather belts for wear in place of the web (war pattern) belt. The necessary belts are available in store from pre-war stocks.

“Who stole the Pig?”

(A TALE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR).

BLINDER and Dusty were two typical cockneys: always in trouble for getting drunk or using bad language, they were, nevertheless, jolly good soldiers. If one of them mounted guard, he was sure of the stick, and with all their faults and failings, lucky was the officer who had them on service.

“I’ve lost me kit many a time,” said Dusty one day, “and I’ve never been ‘ad up for being deficient. I always makes it a rule to pinch from some other bloke whats pinched from me, and it never troubles me where I get it: yer see, oficers don’t want to be worried wiv petty complaints abawt ‘aving lost a pair of boots.”

The two were sworn pals. They had soldiered together both in sunshine and rain: in peace and in war: in church and in the clink: both could produce A.T.A. medals, whilst at the same time, many were the red entries on their defaulter sheets. On one occasion, a Cr.-Sergeant returning to his bunk found Blinder perusing the pay list. “What the—are you doing in here?” yelled the surprised N.C.O. “Oh, nuffink Flag,” retorted Blinder, “only seeing yer ‘avant taken me for some pie, and smacked me dawn for a couple of those ‘never get em’ blankets.”

It was during the South African War, when times were hard and rations short, that Blinder said to his pal, “look ‘ere Dusty, its abawt time we ‘ad a squint at some of these ere farms round this place. If this sort of ‘Can I Venture’ grub of one and a ‘alf biscuits a day lasts much longer, I shall fall frew me blinking belt.”

“Yus, I know,” replied Dusty, “its perishing awful it is: the other night the flag shouted, ‘Unpile Arms’ and blow me if old Chocolate Taylor didn’t get ‘old of me, —took me for ‘is bondook.”

“Shut up,” exclaimed Dusty, “if ‘e takes you for ‘is blooming bondook, e’d take me for a blinking pullfrew, roll me up and shove me in yer butt trap.”

One day Dusty was contemplating something desperate when up rushed Blinder full of excitement. “Blimey, Dusty, I know where there’s a—pig. Get yer bayonet and come quick: old Andrews, the nigger on the water cart ‘as just told me and—”

“Alright,” interjected Dusty, “don’t get top ‘eavy abawt the blooming thing: Where is it?”

Blinder was in no mood for arguing the toss: he was simply out for nothing short of deliberate murder, and pointing in the direction of a clump of trees half-way up the hill said, “see that ‘ere farm? well the blighters there, and for the sake of me darby kelly and me blinking belt, don’t be all day finking abawt it.”

It was not long before the two were making their way towards the farm, but on arriving half way, decided it would be advisable to crawl like stalkers, in case they each got a bullet instead of the pig.

“Gaw lumme,” whispered Dusty, “if there aint no rotten pig up ‘ere, I kill old Andrews.”

“I wouldn’t do it in a ‘urry” replied Blinder, “I’ll scrape the black off ‘im fust.”

Approaching the outskirts of the farm, Blinder poked his head round an ant heap, when, with a violent flapping of wings, a chicken suddenly fluttered by right under his nose. Using a selected expression of military vocabulary, Blinder made one hefty stroke with the butt of his rifle—and missed. With a cackle loud enough to awaken the dead the bird dashed off to the farm.

“That’s blinkingwell been and done it,” said Dusty. “Get yer bondook ready, we’re going to ‘ave a scrap.”

Blinder was thinking more about the chicken he missed than fighting a battle, when he was startled by Dusty again yelling, “look awt, look,—there’s a Boer getting on ‘is pony: look! there’s another—Gaw ‘elp us, there’s another, and another blighter: ‘urry up! ‘urry up! let ‘em ‘ave it.” “Bang! Bang!

Bang, Bang! Klonk! Klonk! Klonk! Bang! sounded the firing. “Fire rapid and shout,” yelled Dusty, “they’ll fink the blooming army’s ar’ter ‘em.”

There must have been about eight Boers at the farm, but both the attackers swear there was a hundred, a total liable to be still further stretched as the years roll by. Whatever the original number, they galloped off after firing a few shots, leaving the farm entirely at the mercy of the two marauders.

The first thing discovered was the chicken: diving his hand into his pocket, Blinder brought forth some mealies which he scattered over the ground, in the hopes of coaxing the bird towards him. To his surprise, however, he observed it peck and swallow a ticky that had evidently got mixed up in Blinder’s pocket with the mealies. That was enough. Up jumped Blinder brandishing his bayonet, and within two shakes of a donkey’s leg, the chicken was running about the farm minus it’s head with Blinder in pursuit.

In the meantime, Dusty had found the pig and in endeavouring to slash it with his cheese knife, chopped off its tail. What a scene that farm presented: there was the chicken without a head running in and out the trees, followed by the pig without a tail, with Blinder and Dusty a good third and fourth respectively. To add to the embarrassment, the rifle fire had been heard in the camp, and a shell from a six-inch howitzer pitched fifty yards short of the farm, which caused not a little bad language to contaminate the surrounding atmosphere.

Having at last secured their prey, it was decided to make tracks back to camp: Blinder carried under his arm the chicken, whilst Dusty—ably supported by Blinder—attended to the business of poking the pig.

Arriving in camp, they hobbled the next day’s rations to be, in a disused trench, and the operation had just been completed, when voices were heard in the distance, “turn up for rum.” Like a flash went Dusty for his canteen, and Blinder—dropping the chicken in the trench—quickly followed, shouting, “get as many as yer can Dusty: I’m going round my company.”

After supping a few tots both returned in a very happy mood for settling with the pig, which quickly changed to wrath when it was discovered both the pig and the chicken were missing. “Lor Blimey,” shouted Dusty. “After fighting a—battle and earning abawt ten V.C.’s, for some ere blighter to come along and pinch ‘em.”

“We can’t pinch any other bloke’s pig or chicken, for no blokes got any in ‘is kit,” replied Blinder.

“No, but I’ll find that ere pig or me name’s not Dusty.” “Yus, and I’ll find the blooming chicken or me name’s not Blinder, and what’s more, we’ll both kill the b——r who ‘as done this dirty trick on us.” Terrible was the punishment in store for the thief or thieves when discovered: even if it meant being shot at dawn, or being tied up for two years to the wheel of an ammunition cart, revenge was to be theirs sooner or later. They were too well skilled in their profession to take this set back lying down, and after a visit to the transport, they made their way to the officers’ servants’ tents, this being considered a very likely place.

Dusty planted his head into the tent: what a scene met his vision. There was the pig tied up to the tent pole and ready for the knife, and alongside was a bath of boiling water all ready to receive the pig for skinning. “What the B——H—— are yer doing wiv that—pig?” yelled Dusty, as he made to enter the tent. “Smash ‘is blinking kite in for ‘im,” added Blinder.

Such a disturbance naturally brought on the scene the Sergt.-Major, who enquired of the servants as to how and when they got the pig. “We got it yesterday,

Whole Stole the Pig—Continued.

Sir, from the Australians who passed through: paid ten shillings for it, and they said in trying to get him out of the sty they pulled his tail out," said the senior.

"Blimey! you blinking liar" shouted Dusty and Blinder together. "Look 'ere, Sergt.-Major, we want that 'ere pig, or some officer is a going' to lose 'is servant," spoke Blinder in a sort of confidential way.

"Now then, now then," the Sergt.-Major interjected. "How do I know that you have any better claim than the servants have: the servants have stated a very reasonable case, but all you've done is to talk about killing people. If nobody can agree to ownership, then I'll have the pig marched to my tin hut up yonder."

Dusty thought a moment, then producing the pig's tail from out of his pocket said to the Sergt.-Major, "what abawt it now Sir? See, the blighter's tail," and suiting the action to the words demonstrated its perfect fit on the pig. The Sergt.-Major was absolutely convinced, but only handed over the pig on the understanding that the lives of all servants should be spared, a request reluctantly complied with. As to the chicken, no trace could be found, although it was suspected the servants knew something about it.

That night the pig was killed, skinned and dressed: during the process a ticky was found in the pig's stomach, which was at once claimed by Blinder. "Ow d'yer make that awt?" asked Dusty. "Because your blinking pig must 'ave eaten my chicken," replied Blinder.

"Listen Dusty, the Sergt.-Major's shouting, 'e wants some pork: says 'e 'as'nt' ad any since 'e left Blighty.

J.E.

Items of Interest.

Artificial Limbs for Discharged Soldiers.

The fitting, repair and renewal of artificial limbs to discharged soldiers whose disabilities were contracted subsequent to the Great War, or in the ordinary course of military service prior thereto, will, in future, be arranged by the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, through the Ministry of Pensions.

Service Dress—When to be worn.

An Army Council Instruction has been issued to the effect that service dress trousers and shoes will not be worn by officers on parade or duty except on fatigue duties in barracks, at stables, or when employed in offices. When service dress is worn on parade or duty, officers will wear the breeches and boots as laid down in the Dress Regulations.

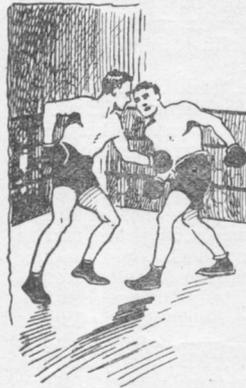
When service dress is worn by other ranks on parade, on duty, or when walking out, putties are to be worn; but it is left to the discretion of General Officers Commanding to define within their stations the limits beyond which other ranks may not proceed unless properly dressed for walking out. Similarly at stations abroad, where khaki drill is worn, it is left to General Officers' Commanding to authorise such modifications as they may deem necessary owing to climatic conditions.

Decorations and medals will be worn with service dress by officers only at Levees, or at Investitures at which levee dress is worn, or when service dress is worn as Review Order.

Small ribands of decorations and medals will be worn by other ranks when walking out in service dress uniform.

Boxing.

ARMY INDIVIDUAL, AMATEUR BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS.



THESE took place on March 6th and 7th at the Command Central Gymnasium at Aldershot. Our representatives were Lt. D. S. Lister (Light Heavy), Lt. D. H. Hamill-Stewart (Welter) and Pte. O'Neill (Bantam).

Cpl. W. D. Beale (Feathers) and Pte. Brown (Light), who had both been entered were unable to attend the former not being able to leave the Machine Gun Course he was on, and the latter owing to a damaged hand.

Lieut. Lister after winning in the first round of the semi-final found his opponent too strong for him in the final and was unfortunately beaten after a very plucky fight. Pte. O'Neill was beaten on points after a hard even fight, as also was Lieut. Hamill-Stewart in the Officers' Welter Weights.

RESULTS.

Officers' Light Heavy Weights.

SEMI-FINAL.

Lieut. D. S. Lister (The Buffs) beat Lieut. L. E. P. Miller, (3rd Gren. Guards) in the 1st round.

FINAL.

Lieut. J. Courtis (R.A.S.C.) K.O., Lieut. D. S. Lister in the 2nd Round.

Officers' Welter Weights.

2ND ROUND.

Lieut. L. H. Bromley-Davenport (3rd Gren. Guards) beat Lieut. D. H. Hamill-Stewart (The Buffs) on points.

Other Ranks' Bantam Weights.

1ST ROUND.

Rifleman Veal (R.U. Rifles) beat Pte. O'Neill (The Buffs) on points.

1ST BATTALION: NOVICES BOXING COMPETITION.

RESULTS.

Bantams.

1st Round:—Taylor beat Inge, Fane beat Dickens: Final:—Fane won.

Feathers.

1st Round:—L/C. West beat Robbins, Taylor beat Rock, Barden a bye: Final:—Taylor beat Barden.

Lights.

1st Round:—Wratten beat Stone, Hart beat Robbins; 2nd Round:—Wratten beat Wickham, Hart beat Gooding; Final:—Hart beat Wratten.

Welters.

1st Round:—Sharp beat L/C. Hudson, Hearne beat Bark, Rigden beat Taft; 2nd Round:—Rigden beat Sharp, Hearne beat Clifton; Final:—Hearne beat Rigden.

Middles.

1st Round:—Murphy beat Goodwin, Buttenshaw beat Read; Final:—Murphy beat Buttenshaw.

Light Heavies.

1st Round:—Cribben beat Cripps; 2nd Round:—Cpl. Turner beat Cribben; Final:—Cpl. Turner beat Hird.

Six Round Contest.—Feather Weights.

Pte. McCarther, R.A.M.C. beat Pte. Supple, The Buffs.

Bantam.

Pte. Manders, The Buffs beat Boy Blandford, R.N.

The 4th Battalion.



WE have, with sincerest regrets, to record this month the departure of our Commanding Officer. He has, after 26 years' service, passed through the old, old, mill, and emerged with a record of achievement behind him of which he, and we as Buffs, may well be proud. The following special order of the Day was published as his farewell message on 19th inst.

"On handing over the command of the 4th Battalion The Buffs, I wish to convey to all ranks my deep appreciation of their loyal services to the Battalion, and the valuable help and support that they have always rendered to me. It was this hearty co-operation which resulted in this Battalion being the first in the Division to reach its full establishment, and which made it possible to surmount all the difficulties and obstacles which had to be faced and overcome in raising a new Territorial Battalion after the Great War.

"After 26½ years' connection with The Buffs, more than five of which were served abroad, and having commanded the old 1/4th Battalion and raised and commanded the 4th Battalion and the Defence Force Battalion, I naturally regret and feel the severance. I am proud of the doings and the discipline of the Battalion, and of the fact that it still retains its place as the strongest in the Division.

"With all good wishes for its future and that of its members both as Territorials, and in civil life—Farewell!"

T. MAINWARING-DUNSTAN,
Lieutenant-Colonel."

WELCOME TO LT-COLONEL BURNS.

We welcome Major C. B. Burns of the old 5th Battalion as our new C.O. He chooses to live in the outpost of our empire—our farthest west—at Yalding, but with the aid of those pink warrants, and a motor-bike we are confident of a frequent welcome from all our scattered detachments for that ruddy countenance, betokening good-fellowship—and business!

And so the world wags on. She will look far ahead, so your contributor in his modesty, announces the arrival of our C.O. for 1974. A son was born on 25th February to Captain D. J. Dean, V.C. May young Dean grow strong and bonnily, realizing the responsibility he has yet to bear, and, in the meantime, we wish him health and welcome.

We have another hearty welcome to extend this month to Lieut. E. G. Chambers, who comes to us from the Forresters T.A. reserve. He will, perhaps, be able to lift some of the arduous duties from the shoulders of his gallant company commander—now that greatness has been thrust upon him!

TANK DEMONSTRATION.

Nine Officers and six W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s attended a most instructive tank demonstration at Dover on the 4th of March. Arrangements, excepting perhaps, the little misconception on behalf of the Union Jack Club, were excellent and the weather, belying the month, combined to ensure a successful outing. The thanks of the Southern Railway are, however, due to one of our

young men without whose forethought in having a Turkish bath on Monday night (or was it Tuesday morning?) the train we are sure, would never have conquered the rise at Wareham where, as it was, we got stuck for some 15 minutes! For those who had never seen tanks before, the sight of those uncanny monsters crawling over banks, falling into trenches and belching fire and smoke, must certainly have been impressive. But really such demonstrations sometimes make one want to underline the P of P.B.I.!

DOVER DANCES.

The Dover dances still continue a success, and Folkestone seems to have found a new process for manufacturing recruits. Good luck to them. Thanet still carries on, midst misfortunes not their own, and the Weald are preparing to extend their greetings to Lieut. J. Moss who is shortly to take up his residence on the borders of their preserve and has promised to assist in the Horsmonden and Yalding area. For this we are sure that their new Company Commander, (who, we hear, is thinking of advertising for one of those missing war trophies in the shape of c. 303) will have nothing but approbation.

DEPOT CO-OPERATION.

We are glad to hear that Lieut. D. L. Coote and Lieut. C. A. Winch will be able to attend their promotion course at the Depot soon after Easter. The Depot have been very good to us this winter and have already put 13 of our N.C.O.'s through most valuable and instructive courses. The N.C.O.'s have shown the way and now the officers (especially the Depot, say, any that play cricket!). In this connection, officers who are hoping for promotion in the near future are reminded that next year (1925) there will be no promotions without the written examination B laid down in para. 281 F.A. Regs. and that the Divisional Commander has ruled that he will make no more provisional promotions under para. 284 F.A. Regs. Lieuts. Bacon, Stevens and a few more should therefore think very seriously whether they could not attend a 60 hour course at the Depot within the immediate future.

And the youngsters too. Mr. H. N. H. W. With as soon as he is 2nd Lieut., will be thankful for another "new boy" to face with him the terrors of the Depot Square.

M.W.

SITTINGBOURNE DETACHMENT.

Personal.

Our congratulations go to our Detachment Commander, Capt. D. J. Dean, V.C., on being presented with a son, and we hope that Mrs. Dean and Son are now enjoying the best of health; and also the same good wishes to Pte. and Mrs. Newby on being presented with a daughter.

All ranks accorded a hearty welcome to our new officer, Lieut. Chambers, on joining the detachment and now we have a platoon officer to each platoon. It should be a great fight to see who is going to be the Platoon Cup Winners this year.

On February 29th the detachment was paid a visit by the Adjutant, who was very pleased with what he saw on parade; we also believe that he went away under the impression that Sittingbourne Detachment are a very happy little crowd.

Shooting.

The result of the shooting match, mentioned in last month's issue, was in favour of the Police, 236 points against 220 points, but owing to the police turning up short we did not fire the full teams; anyway all ranks enjoyed the evening and we are looking forward to having more of these team shoots, especially now the weather is getting more settled; also we hope soon to be paying Conyer Rifle Ranges a visit.

Football.

It is rumoured that we meet Murston Rangers or Faversham Gunpowder Works in the next round of the Sittingbourne Charity Cup on our ground, so we shall all be looking forward to a good game, as we have got a few Walden's and Dimmocks signed on just lately.

4th Battalion—Continued.

THE WEALD COMPANY.

A very handsome gift has been presented to the Company by Captain T. B. Cheesman in the form of a tiger skin for the use of the Big Drummer. On a silver plate is inscribed

Shot by the late
Captain A. E. Cheesman,
5th Buffs, India, 1915.
Presented to the Weald Company Drums
By Captain T. B. Cheesman
On his retirement,
12th Jan., 1924.

The Drums are very proud of their new possession, and the Company wish to take this opportunity of thanking Captain Cheesman for the beautiful presentation.

We hear that Lieut. Moss is coming to Tonbridge and that he expresses a wish to work with the Weald Company. We are extremely glad to hear this news and shall welcome Lieut. Moss amongst us. Those of us who went to camp last year appreciate what an asset he will be to the Company as we know the keenness which he puts into his work. It is probable that Horsmonden and Yalding will claim most of his attention.

Three members of the Company were able to avail themselves of the opportunity of seeing a Tank Demonstration at Wool on the 4th March, these were the Company Commander, C.Q.M.S. Nash and Sergt. Cooper. A very instructive show was witnessed we understand.

The Local Recruiting Committees, we hear, are very active. A great deal of very sound work is being done behind the scenes and the serving members of the Company are beginning to feel the great support afforded by this organisation.

Regimental Gazette.

The Depot.
Officers.

THE BUFFS.—Maj. C. E. H. Druitt, M.C., from Res. of Off., Gen. List, to be Maj., with seny. April 2, 1921.

4TH BN., THE BUFFS.—Lt. E. G. Chambers, from T.A., Res., to be Lt. (March 1).

DISCHARGES.

6282313 Pte. Gorham, 6282308 Pte. Humphreys, 6279998 Pte. E. Lucas, 6282314 Pte. W. Foad, 6282205 Pte. R. Scott, 6282222 Pte. W. Blackmore, 6282217 Pte. W. West, 6282167 Pte. H. Blakeborough.

INCREASE.

1666971 Pte. R. Marks and 6279182 Pte. E. Thompson.

RECRUITS.

Pte. H. Hunter, Pte. C. W. Norris, Pte. E. Pullen, Pte. J. W. Willoghby, Pte. M. T. P. Yard, Pte. A. Marsh, Pte. T. Rashbrook, Pte. F. Simmins, Pte. F. R. Nickels, Pte. S. F. Billett, Pte. W. D. Wheeler, Pte. H. M. Britton, Pte. E. E. Bishop, 6282354 Pte. J. C. Skeats, Pte. W. Keech, Pte. H. W. Tollhurst, Pte. J. P. Murphy, Pte. J. A. Sharp, Pte. E. Cousins, Pte. J. W. Ellen, Pte. A. S. Long, Pte. J. Maslin, Pte. C. Wenham, Pte. C. F. Lee, Pte. J. Bentley, Pte. G. R. Singleton, Pte. F. L. A. Purkiss, Pte. E. G. Bryant.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

Bd.-Mr. Hewitt extended his service beyond 21 years for further undefined period.

6278536 Bdsman. Day to complete 12 years with the Colours.

DISCHARGES.

6281039 Pte. Graham, 6281894 Pte. Castle, 6281946 Pte. Bush, 6281931 Pte. Vass, 628070 Cpl. Farr, 6282094 Pte. Maple.

EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATES.

The following were awarded Certificates Third Class:—6278750 Pte. Hutchcroft, 6282152 Pte. Placito.

The 4th Battalion.

DISCHARGES.

6282159 Pte. J. Andrews, discharged 14-1-24, Para. 363 (vi.) (a) K.R., and struck off the strength.

6282208 Pte. F. Saunders, discharged 21-1-24, Para. 363 (vi.) (a), K.R., and struck off the strength.

6282242 Pte. J. Hogan, discharged 26-2-24, Para. 363 (vi.) (a) K.R., and struck off the strength.

6282345 Pte. E. Rock, discharged 27-2-24, Para. 363 (vi.) (a) K.R., and struck off the strength.

6334055 Pte. H. G. Bourne, 6280662 Pte. W. Muddle, 6280838 Pte. J. Baldock, 6281382 Pte. F. Bishop, 6281295 Pte. F. Feaver, 6281300 Pte. H. Farley, 6280567 Pte. F. Head, 6280536 Pte. H. Saunders, 6281294 Pte. E. Williams, 3436661 L/C. H. Waterman, 6281325 Pte. N. Hamlin, 6282141 Pte. P. Ivory, 6282299 Pte. A. Bourne, 6280616 Pte. P. C. Crunden, 6281510 Pte. R. J. Good.

RE-ENGAGEMENTS.

6280409 Sgt. (O.R.C.) W. Collier, 6281142 Pte. E. P. Philpott, 6281064 Pte. H. F. Smith.

6281004 Pte. A. J. May,
6280382 Pte. J. M. Richards.

STRENGTH-ENLISTMENTS.

6282356 Pte. G. F. Hall, 6282357 Pte. L. C. Friend, 6282358 Pte. W. Iles, 6282359 Pte. C. Iles, 6282317 Pte. R. S. Allen, 6282355 Pte. A. Smith,

Topical Rhymes: "Send it in."

IF you have a bit of news,
Send it in;
Or a joke that will amuse,
Send it in;

A story that is true,
An incident that's new,
We want to hear from you—
Send it in.

Will your story make us laugh?
Send it in;
Send along a photograph,
Send it in;

Never mind about your style,
If it's only worth the while,
And will make the reader smile—
Send it in.

Romance (in Triplicate).

A Study in Army Forms.

THE CHARMER first appears in view
Upon A.F. A 17—2,
And Private Jones is smitten straight
Away. Her sweet G 858
He longs to clasp. It seems like Heaven
To see her smile. A 27

Is his the day, forlorn and drear,
His loved one fails to reappear.
Always he'll nurse, unless he clicks,
His W 3436.

Dare he propose? Can it be done?
He looks up M 1411.

Bachelors, cynical and free,
Say he requires B 183.
No taunts avail 'gainst charms like hers.
He pops the question. She concurs!
Anxious but happy, he and she
Sketch out O 1656 B.

The great day dawns. She's looking fine!
They settle O 1609;
Braving a hail of rice they dive
Into the swift G 915—
Two happy souls embarked anew
Upon the O 1802.

* * * * *

Honeymoon o'er, home they arrive,
We get B 104—85;
And recently, we're glad to see,
They furnish K 1293—
Proud to display, secure from storms,
Two tiny, chubby Army Forms.

"PITT."

* * * * *

For the benefit of readers who have not a copy of that fascinating work, "Classified Index of Army Forms," we append a few extracts:—

A 17—2 Visitors, order to view.
A 27 Sick, morning state.
B 104—85 Notification, soldier presumably quite well.
B 183 Report on case of mental disability.
G 858 Tender form.
G 915 Disappearing carriages.
K 1293 Perambulation report (with inside sheets).
M 1411 Cash required.
O 1609 Payments to officiating clergyman.
O 1656 B Rough estimate of total income.
O 1802 Married roll.
W 3436 Invisible wounds.



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The Royal Sussex Regiment
The Hampshire Regiment
The Dorset Regiment
The South Lancashire Regiment
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Lt.-Col. F. Mainwaring Dunstan, T.D. The Buffs and the Victoria Cross.

An Appreciation.

TO those who have been associated with Lt.-Colonel Dunstan throughout some period of his twenty-six and a half years' service, the news of his retirement from the active list will come as a sense of personal loss. Apart from his duties as an officer, all ranks will realize that, in him, they have lost a friend.

The Cadet Battalion of the Buffs gave him his first chance; sent for training with the Guards, he obtained a special certificate and was gazetted to a commission in the 1st Volunteer Battalion. His wonderful grip of the Drill book, care and attention to detail, and the keenness with which he imbued the men under him, rendered his services invaluable. The men he trained became known as picked men in all departments. An altogether exceptional gymnast he trained, from time to time, squads for exhibition work. Just how valuable this work was, the coming of the Territorial movement proved. At a military entertainment and recruiting meeting organized by the then Captain Dunstan, in 1912, fifty-two new men were added to his company of the 4th Battalion of the Buffs. These figures, I think, speak for themselves.

At the outbreak of War, Captain Dunstan proceeded with the Battalion to India, and later saw active service with them in Aden. Whilst on service a serious operation rendered him unfit, like the true soldier he is, he refused to advertise the fact and stuck to the Battalion until its return to India. He was gazetted Major and later came to command the Battalion in place of Colonel Gosling.

Only those who know Lt.-Colonel Dunstan best, know how hard it must have been to him to see the men of the original battalion, draft after draft, leave to re-inforce the 5th Battalion in Mesopotamia, and have to stay behind. That he did his duty as painstakingly as ever, without grousing, only goes to prove how deep-rooted was the instinct of the soldier.

However, his active service was not complete, he commanded the troops both British and Native, in the Lahore Cantonments, during the Riots. His battalion saw service on the North-west Frontier.

Since the War, Lt.-Colonel Dunstan has been in charge of the amalgamation of the 4th and 5th Battalions; raised the Defence Force Battalion; and been rewarded by seeing the present 4th Buffs attain to their full strength.

With the Scouts as with the Territorials, he has put his heart into the work. How many a boy owes his start in life to Lt.-Colonel Dunstan's endeavour. To have been one of "Dunstan's boys" is a sufficient character. How many a man has turned to him for help or advice, and never turned in vain. A great-hearted little man, his achievements testify to this.

I am sure we can wish him no more acceptable wish than that the work he loved may be carried on in the spirit in which he conceived it.

On Spion Kop.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—
"Reading through some poems the other day, I came across the following by Sir Henry Newbolt, which I feel sure many would like to see re-published in *The Dragon*. It will be remembered that Major N. H. Vertue to whom it refers, served in the Buffs, and at the time of his death was Brigade-Major to Major-General Woodgate."

Foremost of all on battle's fiery steep
Here VERTUE fell, and here he sleeps his sleep.
A fairer name no Roman ever gave
To stand sole monument on Valour's grave.

AT a parade of all Troops in Kamptee in 1897, General Westmacott, K.C.B., D.S.O., presented Corporal Smith of "The Buffs" with the Victoria Cross, and Private Poile of the same Regiment with the Distinguished Conduct Medal, which were awarded them for gallantry in the Mahmur Valley in September, 1897.

General Westmacott in his speech to the troops said:—

"Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the Nagpur Command, you are paraded here to-day, by Order of Her Most gracious Majesty the Queen, to witness the presentation of the Victoria Cross to Corporal Smith of "The Buffs;" it is the highest order of valour and is open alike to Officers and men, and is the ambition of every Soldier. Four men of Corporal Smith's section were awarded the D.C.M. at the same time, a decoration second in value only to the Victoria Cross. Privates Nelthorpe, Lever and Finn have already received these medals at the hands of Her Most Gracious Majesty at Windsor, and Private Poile is here on parade to-day. The circumstances under which these brave men won these decorations were as follows:—

"On the evening of the 16th September, 1897, "The Buffs" were returning to camp fighting their way inch by inch, in one of those rear guard actions we all know so well, against a large force of an invisible enemy. A call was made on the Regiment for an escort for a wounded Officer in a doolie. Major Moody, who was in command of the rear guard, told off the left section of 'G' Company as they happened to be nearest. This was Corporal Smith's section, consisting of 12 men all told, they near by found the wounded officer, but they came across No. 8 Mountain Battery with some Sappers, to whom they attached themselves. Being very hardly pressed, it was decided to bivouac for the night in the village of Bilot. That part of the village which was not occupied by the little force was held by the enemy, who set fire to the village to try and drive our people into the open, Lieuts. Watson and Cohen (both decorated since with the Victoria Cross), with Corporal Smith's section and some Sappers, made two desperate attempts to drive the enemy out of the village. Corporal Smith, twice severely wounded, still continued to command his section, and only laid down when he received a distinct order to do so, and even then continued to fire on the enemy. Privates Poile, Finn and Nelthorpe were also awarded the D.C.M., for their conspicuous gallantry on this occasion, these men were all wounded. The little force were relieved from camp in the early morning, but not before two were killed and five wounded out of that section of 12 men.

Now I suppose most of us, in broad daylight, after breakfast, with all our comrades looking on, would ride pretty straight at anything, but these men won their glory in pitch darkness, soaking wet and with no food and no gallery to applaud them, and I, for one say all honour to them and their decorations and that they were bravely won. Colonel Ommamey, and men of "The Buffs," let me congratulate you on having such men in your Regiment, and also the honour it is to you, one and all, to be able to call them comrades and brother "Buffs." Remember this was no selected section, it was no picked body of men, Major Moody took the first section that came to hand, and as I say we must take them as a fair sample of what the other sections throughout the Regiment are. Corporal Smith, Privates Poile, Lever and Nelthorpe are worthy successors to those pioneers in following Lieut. Latham, who in spite of losing his arm saved the

The Buffs and the Victoria Cross—Continued.

"King's Colours" and won the Gold Medal, which was the Victoria Cross of those days, at Albuhera, that battle where "The Buffs" went into battle 750 strong and only 65 answered their names at evening roll call. Major Maude as he was then, won the Victoria Cross at the assault of the Redan, when leading "The Buffs," and General Sir Mark Walker won the Victoria Cross in the Crimea War, and still lives to wear it, and last but not least, Private Moyes was taken prisoner in China, and when offered his life if he would make obedience to their Gods, said he would sooner die than disgrace his country's name, and he died an hero.

You "Buffs" were raised in 1572 and your records from Blenheim to Malakand are more than there is time to follow now. It is a grand record, and one your country, and yourselves, may be proud of, your strength and vitality is largely due to the excellent esprit de corps that exists throughout the Regiment, and the feeling that you all have, from Colonel down to the smallest boy, that "The Buffs" are the finest regiment in the world bar none. Encourage this feeling, and never lose sight of it, and whatever "The Buffs" may be called upon to do, will be well done, and you will in the future equal, if it may not be possible to surpass these grand old traditions of the Regiment, which extend over a period of 300 years. I am very proud of having been the channel through which Her Most Gracious Majesty has granted these decorations, and I shall always look back with pleasure that the last duty that I had to perform before laying down the Command has been so pleasant a one."

The Street of Adventure.

BY CAPTAIN H. H. C. BAIRD, D.S.O., LATE THE BUFFS.

THE *Ex-Service Man* had hardly begun teething before excitement set in earnest. In December, 1918, whilst still running the paper which had by now become a weekly instead of a fortnightly, I accepted the invitation extended by the Editor, *The Morning Post*, to expose in that paper the appalling injustice being done at that time to ex-officers and their dependents, and to open up an Enquiry Bureau on their behalf.

A few weeks later came the parting of the ways with my co-editor leaving me stranded with both the *Morning Post* job and my paper, and without any assistance except for that so willingly rendered by two of the most loyal and hardworking secretary typists that ever stepped this earth.

And in the midst of all this, I found myself faced on one side with a printer's bill I was quite unable to meet, and on the other with an offer to buy out the paper outright at a profit to myself and a good job under the new management into the bargain—an offer which stupidly, or otherwise, I flatly refused.

In regard to my work on *The Morning Post* a most amusing thing happened. The flood of correspondence which reached me as a result of the enquiry bureau—anything from 60-80 letters a day—necessitated further clerical assistance without delay, and well do I remember interviewing a number of lady typists in my office one Saturday morning. The choice made,—a late private secretary of Sir Thomas Lipton,—I was asked "When do you want me to start?"; to which I replied "Right away. Your room is all ready, and I should like you to come down to Hove this afternoon."

I have forgotten to mention that the whole of my *Morning Post* work was done from my private residence, and that it was a residential secretary whom I was engaging.

It was just on dinner time when the lady arrived, and it was only when it became a question of showing her her room, that I realized the awful thing I had done, resulting in her look of consternation from the moment of her arrival. I had overlooked completely that my wife was away for a few days and that I had invited this young lady, whom I had never set eyes on before, to stay in what appeared to be a bachelor establishment!

But worse was to come on the following day. After a hard morning's work I was taking the afternoon off, when some friends, the primmest of the prim and with narrowest views, happened to call. Our one and only servant was having her afternoon off, and Miss—, my newly installed secretary, opened the door. She was an exceptionally nice looking girl, and when she announced with a captivating smile that Mrs. Baird had gone away, and that Captain Baird was lying down, etc., the thoughts that passed through their minds, so we heard later, are best left to the imagination and not published in detail in the Buffs' regimental newspaper!

Another amusing incident in connection with my *Morning Post* work was as follows. Prior to undertaking this task I sought and obtained interviews with the heads of all Government Departments with whom I knew I should be brought into touch. At each of these I asked quite frankly for assistance, and added that, where I thought criticism was justifiable, I had no intention of sparing myself. In every instance assistance was promised, and an assurance given that constructive criticism, so far from being resented, was welcomed on account of the assistance it gave in helping to get matters put right.

So everything was rosy in the garden at the commencement, and until I began to see red when the true state of affairs was laid bare before me as a result of my correspondence—the state of affairs which, it will be remembered, led to Earl Haig refusing to accept any honour in recognition of his War Services until he could feel assured that the Junior Officers who fought under him, together with their dependents were to receive adequate consideration.

It was then that I let myself go with the result that one of the officials whom I had interviewed wrote to the effect that if the tone of my articles continued in such a strain as the one he had just read, friendly relations so far as he was concerned must cease. To this I replied by wire "Can't believe it, come and lunch to-morrow."

Well, we lunched, and a few days later, I was congratulating this particular department in *The Morning Post* on a certain very belated concession it had made!

(To be continued).

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ARRANGE

YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY.

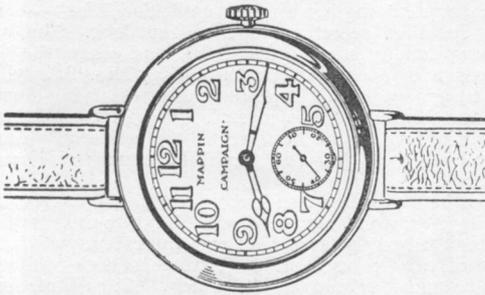
The Depot Cricket Week will take place from July 19th, the date of the Past and Present Match, to July 24th. There will be accommodation in Barracks for all, any amount to amuse you: so make your arrangements now.

SEE TO IT NOW.

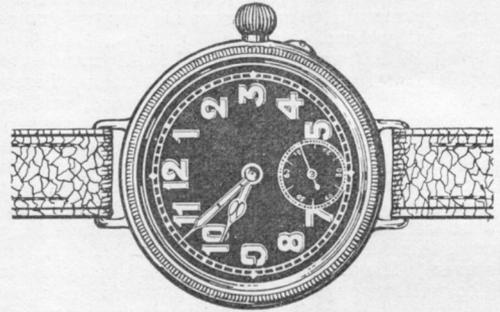
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ROUND ABOUT

BY
THE TRAMP



SPRING. Spring is definitely here. Although East winds spring up at odd moments and early morning fogs still provide excuses for late arrivals at the Office, it must be recorded that the first Spring Poet has been seen in a garden near Battersea. Before these words are in print, many Editors' waste-paper baskets will be holding the fruit of the Season's labours and all danger will be overpast. As to the other symptoms of Spring, the Parks afford ample evidence that the young men's fancies are by no means uncharacteristic this year.

* * * *

THE COMING SEASON. The Newspapers tell us that London, and indeed all England, will be very crowded this year. The chief magnet is the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and thousands of visitors from every part of the world will be going there in order to get tired and poor, for fun. Memories of long past jaunts to Earl's Court Exhibition or to the White City surge up. The gasps and shrieks of venturesome people on Scenic Railways, the long drawn out aaaaahs! of rapturous visitors to Venetian grottoes and, chief delight, the crockery smashing side-show. At Wembley, I feel, everything will be so terribly wonderful, so magnificent and so utterly unenjoyable. But perhaps that is pessimism. Anyway I do not look forward to it much except for the extra breathing room it will occasionally give to London itself.

* * * *

FROM THE NEW WORLD. An American invasion is pretty certain. One reads of a thousand odd Advertising experts who are coming to discuss "Selling Methods" with our less strident geniuses. There was a time when Piccadilly Circus had charm and dignity, but the moving electric signs have left no trace of either. Some was remarked that it appeared to be malicious cruelty to dipsomaniacs. Why not carry the moving sign idea to its logical conclusion? The War Office would look well and recruiting would no doubt go up in leaps and bounds if a sign on the facade invited "Smart young men to join the Forces." The illustrations might show the probable effect of service life on the chest measurement.

Whitehall is very suggestive of ideas, and then what about the houses of Parliament themselves. At any rate this last would show voters where their M.P. might occasionally be found.

* * * *

THE MOVING OF UNCLE COX. History is being made this month by the removal of Cox and Co. to "more commodious premises" in Pall Mall. No more will one go blithely or in trepidation through the severe portals of the gloomy No. 16 Charing Cross.

I understand that the official story of Cox and Co., is being written: while it will certainly be of great interest there can be no doubt that the stories omitted will, for obvious reasons, be the best.

LEGENDS OF THE WAR YEARS. Two occur to me now and, although they are old, there may be some who have not heard them.

There was the Subaltern, lately gazetted and for the first time in possession of a cheque book, who had overdrawn his account. The bank formally notified him and he sat down to compose a suitable reply. After an hour had elapsed, all that appeared on the sheet of paper were the poignant words "I say, Cox."

Then again the Subaltern about 1917, just back on leave and determined to enjoy the few days. On calling at No. 16 to cash another cheque he was told by the Clerk that the account was overdrawn and that the Bank could not advance any further sum. The Subaltern leaned over the counter and with mild reproach in his voice said "Look here, Cox, old man, you're losing your nerve."

It won't be quite the same going to the great White building opposite "The Senior." There is something rather self-conscious about the desert-like cluster of arms and shields over the portals (they are not just doors), and the fact that the Strong Rooms in the basement have doors thirteen tons in weight leaves me practically cold.

Alas! another chapter is ended and Cox's is buried with old Regent Street and other memories. George Robey's immortal remark in "The Bing Boy's" on Broadway (A.D. 1918), must serve as an epitaph:—"Everybody who is anybody bahns at Coaxes."

* * * *

"THE SONG OF TIADATHA." Those who relished the "Balkan News" in days gone by will remember the delightful parody of "Hiawatha," by Captain Owen Rutter, in which the daily Macedonian sound was crystallised with such wit and point. I came across the poem in book form the other day and re-read it with great pleasure. For the information of those who would like to add this volume to their collection of War literature, it was published by T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., Adelphi Terrace, London.

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BY THE COMMANDANT.

THE Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow, is nearing its first birthday, and a few remarks on its activities may be of interest to your readers.

The Centre is housed in an old hut camp on Hounslow Heath, about 10 miles from London. The camp is far from ideal as the huts were not designed for workshops, but conversion is taking place gradually. Proximity to London, however, is a very important factor, as the field of possible employment there, is great.

Various Army Council Instructions and occasional notices in the public press have drawn attention to the different trades with which the Centre deals, so repetition is unnecessary. But a few general observations, may be of assistance to W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, and men who intend to apply for a course of training.

Up to date, 213 other ranks have passed through the Centre and of these, 163 have been placed in good employment, immediately on leaving the Colours. These figures would have been even better if we had not had so many "difficult cases" to handle. The following are considered to be "difficult cases." "A" having applied to go through a course of Painting, asks, soon after his arrival, to go to Electric Wiring and later on changes to Tailoring. In consequence he learns no trade and is lucky if, thanks to our Employment Bureau, he gets in to some such job as night watchman. "B," a young hefty man, with no claim on the trade, wishes to do Boot-repairing. Although this is an excellent trade for an elderly man who intends to set up on his own, or for one who is to join a relative, it is seldom possible to find others whole time employment. "C," who has been absent or mildly insubordinate most of his service tries Private Service. "D," with a wife and ten children to support, does the same. These latter are indeed difficult cases as they are not acceptable to any master or mistress. Naturally, everything that can be done, is done for these men, but, as the number under training is small, every one of these cases prevents a more suitable subject for training from reaching the Centre. The ideal subject for training is the man who has proved himself to be a good soldier, and who is determined to take up a trade for which he is temperamentally well fitted. Previous experience in a trade is, of course, a great help and in certain trades such as smith or fitter, unless employment is guaranteed, it is essential.

In spite of poor trade conditions, willing hard-working men can generally be placed, as long as they are ready to start as an improver or the equivalent. This comes hard to many, particularly to senior W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s, but surely it is better to take a small wage with prospects of advancement, than to be out of work altogether.

The building trade is good at present and will remain so for some years to come. Motor engineering is so congested, that it is foolish for anyone to try it unless they have promise of employment. Clerical work is illpaid and overstocked. Private Service posts can be found fairly readily for suitable men. The man whose wife has been in domestic service and who has no family can always be placed. There is a demand for Groom-gardeners, Chauffeur-gardeners and Gardener-handymen. Tailors should have previous experience, but these can be taught cutting and work not always found in regimental shops.

In conclusion, the visit of regimental Officers to the Centre will be welcomed as will any enquiries which Officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s or men may care to make through the post.

News from Harrismith.

THE following extracts from a letter we have received from Major A. G. Trollope from Harrismith will doubtless interest many of our readers:—

"This is still a very sporting place, viz., Hunt Club, Polo, Tennis, Golf, Cricket, Football and Races.

You ask about old friends; Doctor Wilson was killed in France in the war owing to his horse slipping up in a paved Court Yard, he was thrown and fractured his skull. Digger Robinson is still alive and farming in Natal. The Captain of the Golf Club is Scruby at least he was Captain; he is a very nice fellow and owns as you say, the chemist's shop. He was so pleased when I told him you remembered him. Nearly all the English people here have lost sons in the late war and there are a great number of tablets in the Church. There is also a very fine monument on the left side of the Town Hall to the memory of those killed in the war. On the opposite side is the Guards' Monument and round the monuments are beautiful gardens with a mass of flowers.

I still play cricket and golf. This place is of course very much improved since 1902. There is a nice motor drive round the mountain and every year the Council plants 100,000 trees or more.

I am going to look after the Buffs and other soldiers' graves in the Cemetery. I am staying in the Royal Hotel. Old Bains, he is still alive, and remembers Colonel Harley Ravenhill and many Buffs. Bains' sons are great sportsmen and one is one of the best Polo players I have ever seen. Last year, this Harrismith Team was in the final of all Africa and were beaten only after half time. They had not so many ponies as their opponents. I heard from Stevenson-Hamilton the other day; he is just coming out again; he is an old 6th D.G. Officer and is in charge of the Sabie Game Reserve. He tells me everything is rotten at home and is glad to get back. Now you have a Dock Strike and in a few weeks there will be some other d.....d. strike. You ask about Barker (Hatter). Yes, I saw him several times last year and the year before when I was down at the Club, Nottingham Road, trout fishing."

The Worker.

THERE is'nt much fun, if it's got to be done,

For the man who's earning his bread;

He works away to the set of the sun,

With hand and heart and head;

But spare your pity, he doesn't mind,

For he takes a pride in the daily grind,

And learns to be one of the steady old kind;

Does the man who earns his bread!

What if he's gruff, and his manner rough?

There's a heart of gold deep hid:

Why, bless your soul, he's happy enough

With wife and home and kid!

Just leave him alone; he asks no more

Than a job to do and a pound in store;

He's richer than most, though you think him poor,

Is the man who earns his bread.

At his Country's call, his back to the wall,

In Her direst hour of need,

He proved to the World that the best of all

Are British Bull-dog breed!

Well, what if he grouses? That's just his way,

He groused at the War, yet he won the day;

It's hats off to the working-man I say,

To the man who EARNS his bread!

ERIC C. FRENCH.

War Cemeteries.

A world-wide Chain.

MAJOR-GENERAL Sir Fabian Ware, who recently addressed the Royal Society of Arts on "Building and Decoration of the War Cemeteries," said:—

ONE of the first decisions made with regard to the war graves had been that, so far as was humanly possible, they should be permanent. Perpetuity in sepulture had in the past been a very rare thing, assured in any degree to the great of the earth only. These dead, the Imperial War Conference had held, certainly deserved the honour which had been shown to the former great of the earth. To ensure this lasting quality had been the special task of the engineer. It was only necessary to visit the churchyards of this country to see how headstones became displaced. All chance of that had been prevented in the war cemeteries. A trench was dug at the back of each row and a continuous concrete beam constructed in it. On the upper side of the beam were sockets into which the headstones were fitted and fixed with concrete; they were thus held as in a vice, permanently immovable. The land had been given in perpetuity in each former allied country. There was, therefore, no fear that it would ever be used for any other purpose.

Very few people had any real idea of the number and distribution of the war cemeteries. They stretched across France and Belgium in a chain from the English Channel to the Vosges, nearly 1,000 in number. In addition there were more than 1,500 French Communal cemeteries and churchyards, in which some of our dead were buried. In Switzerland there was one cemetery at Vevey, where the bodies of the British prisoners of war who died in that country had been gathered together. The chain continued across the north of Italy, and there were in that country, together with scattered cemeteries and graveyards, 93 in all.

Across Macedonia the chain stretched—here there were 21 cemeteries—down the Gallipoli Peninsula, where there were 31, to Smyrna, through Syria, where there were two, through Palestine, passing over the Mount of Olives itself—in Palestine there were 40—through Egypt, where there were five, to East Africa, where there were 400 burial places which it was necessary to concentrate; across the north of India, to China, where there was a cemetery at Tsingtao, and 23 other scattered burial grounds, to Australia and New Zealand, across Canada, and back to the United Kingdom, where there were more than 67,000 graves in some 5,000 churchyards and cemeteries.

Someone, writing on these cemeteries shortly after the war, had truly said that the Empire had thrown a girdle of honour round the world. There were 50 other countries, off the track he had followed, where British war graves had been found.

The work on the war cemeteries would be a lamentable failure if the graves had not always been first in their thoughts. The vision of peace, with its background of sublime tragedy, proceeded from the graves alone. Even the casual visitor should first be irresistibly attracted by the rows of headstones. It was not until they had passed silently before the headstones, reading the inscriptions, eloquent in their brevity, that they gradually became conscious that each of these groups was a community knit together as in no ordinary resting place of the dead, and, instinctively looking round for some symbol of that unity, turned to the massive Stone of Remembrance and the Great Cross of Sacrifice.

On the Gallipoli Peninsula they had had perhaps their hardest task. He visited the cemeteries there a fortnight ago and had returned full of admiration

for the artistic conception of their principal artist in that area. Sir John Burnet, and of gratitude to the staff for the way they had overcome difficulties that would have beaten all but the most stout-hearted. Some of the cemeteries were on the beaches close to the blue Aegean Sea; others, in the Anzac area, were in the sides of deep gullies, or on the ridge from which the Turk was never dislodged, close to his old front line. They are all now in Turkish territory, from which the Greek population had been "exchanged," so that those in the Helles area were among a Mahomedan population, those to the north in practically uninhabited country. Neither the upright headstones nor the great Cross of Sacrifice, with its bronze sword were suitable for the conditions which would govern their maintenance in the future. The cemeteries were surrounded with great walls of massive rubble masonry, deep stone ditches running along their base.

The outstanding feature of the design was a screen wall of ashlar masonry at the upper end of the cemetery, 20 feet to 30 feet in length, and 6 feet to 9 feet in height, according to the size of the cemetery. In the centre of this screen wall, in a curved recess with broad stone steps along its whole length, was a large plain cross in relief, cut into the massive stonework itself. In the larger cemeteries was placed the Stone of Remembrance, similar to that in France, but built up of large blocks cemented together. In some the screen wall was replaced by a massive pylon on which names of missing were inscribed.

In conclusion, he asked them to follow in imagination the chain of cemeteries round the world. From France; through Italy, Macedonia, Gallipoli, Syria, to the Mount of Olives; then on to Egypt, Mesopotamia, East Africa, and round again to Great Britain. These cemeteries and memorials had been built in honour of our dead; they were at the same time monuments unique in history to the achievements of the British race and the British Commonwealth of Nations, they were in all parts of the old world, and in that which was unknown to ancient empires and conquerors, and bore a message to future generations as long as the stone of which they were constructed endured. If we ask ourselves what that message would be, he thought our pride in the memory of those whom we honoured would be lighted up with an unshaken hope in the ultimate triumph of the faith and ideals in which they died.

The Duke of York's Royal Military School.

The Old Boys' Association of the above School desire to get in touch with all former Scholars. Will any past or present member of the regiment who passed through this well known School, kindly communicate with Mr. I. F. Gillett, House 30, Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, or Mr. F. C. Palethorpe, 33 Lee Park, Blackheath, London, S.E. 3.

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No. 294.

May, 1924.

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Editorial.

WE consider we should be making a great mistake if we missed this opportunity of asking all our subscribers to read with "the eyes of the mind" the much talked of pamphlet, or to use the official title, "The Handbook of the Past and Present Association, The Buffs," which will be circulated concurrently with the issue of this number of "The Dragon."

We have had the privilege of receiving, in advance, a copy of this book, and without bias, can state our opinion, that the committee deserve both credit and thanks for the very efficient manner in which they have carried out their voluntary duties.

We venture to hope, as a mark of gratitude, that all members of the Association will put their hearts into advertising—if we may use such a term—the Association, in obtaining new members and in suggesting to their friends and acquaintances the urgent need of their support.

We feel sure that the best thanks the Committee can have is a successful and early achievement of the aims and objects of the Association and an immediate response to enable them to render adequate assistance to those who are in urgent need.

Personalia.

WE offer our deepest sympathy to Br.-General Sir H. M. Pellatt, lately commanding the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, in his bereavement. Lady Pellatt had been Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Girl Guides since 1912, and was a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. News of her death only reaches us as we go to press.

We are glad to announce that influenza has at last left Court Lodge, Bishopsbourne. At one time, Brigadier-General and Mrs. Finch Hatton, their two children, nurse, and all the rest of the household, were suffering from it at the same time.

Colonel R. McDouall is on leave and has taken a house in Canterbury where he and his family are now in residence; his address is:—Vernon Grange, Old Dover Road.

Good luck to Colonel W. H. Trevor and Captain H. H. C. Baird who are taking part in the Army Golf meeting at Hoylake on the 5th and 6th May.

The names of Colonel W. H. Trevor and Captain Dampier Palmer should be added to the list of old Marlburians, which appeared in *The Dragon* in October, 1922.

We congratulate Colonel J. Kennedy on winning the Regimental Race at the Cattistock Point-to-Point.

We congratulate Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Power on winning both the open race (33 starters), and the Regimental Cup at the Calpe Hunt Point-to-Point Meeting.

Congratulations to Major G. T. D. Hickman and Lieut. H. Spear on having sold the two winners to Colonel Power.

We regret to hear that Lieut.-Colonel E. B. Burns, commanding the fourth Battalion, has been laid up with influenza, in consequence of which he has not been able to attend the meetings of the executive committee of the Past and Present Association.

Major G. T. D. Hickman expresses the intention of being present at Canterbury during the Cricket Week in August.

Major and Mrs. Hardy are back from Gibraltar and have settled down in their house at Thanington. What seems to have impressed them most during their stay was the forty-five inches of rain during the forty-six days they were there.

We are sorry to learn that Major E. F. Gould has been laid up, since his return to Ciboure (Basses Pyrenees) with a bad attack of congestion of the lungs.

We hear that Major Foster and Captain Birrell are doing exceptionally good work as area representatives in their respective areas (Dover and Chatham).

We extend our sincerest sympathy to Captain D. J. and Mrs. Dean on the loss of their infant son, which occurred on the 11th April.

Captain Norman Hart is arriving home shortly to attend a Machine Gun Course.

Captain A. J. Peareth, who is managing the 1st Battalion cricket team this year, expects to get a very good side together.

Personalia—Continued.

We regret to have to announce that the statement published in these notes in the April number, regarding the early return to England of Captain and Mrs. Strettell was incorrect. A letter from Captain Strettell on this subject appears on another page.

We apologize for the unfortunate omission in our last number in not mentioning Mrs. Eric Strettell as amongst the brides that have come to the regiment from Ickham.

Lieut. R. T. Reid, first Battalion, The Buffs, has assumed the duties of local correspondent to *The Dragon* for that Battalion. Lieut. Reid has helped us much in the past, and we feel sure that with the greater scope now offered him, the paper will benefit accordingly.

Lieut. R. J. Thorne-Thorne spent Easter in the South of France where he has been on tour with an Old Carthusian football team.

Lieut. K. M. C. Mallam has been elected a member of the Naval and Military Club.

Mrs. and Miss Ravenhill and Mr. and Mrs. Percy Barker are home from India, having decided to give up the idea of breaking their journey in the South of France. Mr. and Mrs. Barker have taken a cottage at Braemar for June, July, and August.

The engagement is announced between Douglas Welsh Hendin, M.C., The Buffs and Gold Coast Regiment, only son of the late H. M. Hendin and Mrs. Hendin, of Dover, and Eva May, elder daughter of Major and Mrs. Pegrum, of Teddington Hall, Teddington, Middlesex.

We are very glad to hear that Pensioner S. Phillips was well enough to go and have his photograph taken before Easter. A reproduction of this forms the illustration to the article on Colonels of the Buffs in the current number.

Mr. Phillips (or "Uncle Sam" as he is known in Chelsea) celebrated his 87th birthday on the 19th March.

The following old friends recently called at the offices of the Past and Present Association:—W. A. Crascall, A. C. Ashby, I. E. Osborne and A. Scott.

The following have notified their intention of attending the Depot Cricket Week in July:—

Mr. G. Cooper (Sailor Cooper).
Mr. E. C. French.
Mr. V. H. Hewson.

Mr. C. Edwards, late Private, No. 13964, 7th battalion, who lost a leg in the war, is now residing at Gateshead-on-Tyne.

The vacancy advertised in our last number for a club steward for the East Kent Club at Canterbury, is still open.

We think the Executive Committee of the Past and Present Association held a meeting at the Folkestone Race-course the other day, for the following were present:—

Bde.-General and Mrs. Finch Hatton, Colonel Findlay, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Eaton, Major Guy Lee and Miss Lee, Captain and Mrs. Baird, Captain and

Mrs. Stronge. We understand that Captain Baird backed every winner on the first day and that the less said about the second day's speculations, the better!

The photographs appearing in the pages of the 1st Battalion news were taken at the Calpe Point-to-Point Races, and are published by kind permission of *The Tattler* and Central Press Agency, Ltd.

Our 6th Battalion readers will be glad to hear of the publication of the 12th Division History, which is reviewed on page 150.

We have to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the War History of the Royal West Kent Regiment which is reviewed on the same page.

An Apology.

It is very much regretted that in our last issue, we omitted to acknowledge that "Old Uniforms Never Die" appeared by kind permission of *The Daily Sketch*.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.**BIRTHS.**

Jones.—On December 20th, 1923, at Dublin, the wife of No. 6278093 C.Q.M.S. Jones, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a son.

Hook.—At Southampton, on February 25th, 1924, the wife of No. 6278903 Sgt. Hook, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a daughter.

Shoobridge.—At Portland, on March 1st, 1924, the wife of No. 6278427 Sgt. Shoobridge, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a daughter (Joan).

Hamblin.—At Portland on March 12th, the wife of No. 6278997 Sgt. Hamblin, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Harris-Christopher.—No. 6279291 Pte. Harris to Nellie May Christopher, at Parish Church, Portesham, on 24/12/23.

Wade-Day.—6278738 I/Cpl. Wade, E. to Hilda Evelyn Day, on 27/12/23, at Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Weymouth.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Emma Jane Clifton, wife of ex-Company Sergeant-Major E. R. Clifton, The Buffs, which occurred on the 19th of January.

Among those present at the funeral were Messrs. E. R. Clifton (husband), E. G. Clifton, E. J. Clifton, A. A. Clifton (sons), all late The Buffs. A fourth son, now serving in the 1st Battalion, was unable to reach home in time to be present.

Mrs. Clifton had seven sons, all of whom took part in the Great War.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the family in their loss.

THE LATE LADY RAINES.

46 Sussex Gardens,
Hyde Park, W.,
March 22nd, 1924.

Mrs. Davis presents her compliments to Sir Arthur Fitzroy Paget and thanks him very sincerely for his great kindness in sending a very beautiful wreath in Memory of her Beloved Sister, Lady Raines, from himself, and all denominations of

"The Buffs."

It was a very precious gift.

Sandhurst Memorial.

THE committee is still £15 short of the £100 required to put up a panel in the Chapel at Sandhurst, to the memory of officers of the Buffs, one time cadets, who lost their lives in the Great War.

It is earnestly hoped that past and present officers, who have not already subscribed, and the next-of-kin of officers who lost their lives, will contribute towards this memorial and so enable the committee to hand over the whole amount in the near future. The names of officers whose names will appear on the panel, together with a photograph of the enlarged chapel, were given in *The Dragon* for October, 1923.

Cheques, not exceeding £2 2s. 0d., should be made payable to the Sandhurst Memorial and forwarded to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, Depot the Buffs, Canterbury.

Subscriptions have been received during the past month from the following officers:—Major-General Sir A. Lynden-Bell, Captains J. F. W. Allen, H. H. C. Baird and H. C. T. Stronge.

H. F. K.

DIED OF WOUNDS, 27TH MARCH, 1918.

I WENT to the Depot the other day; I had something to enquire about in the Past and Present office and I also wanted to go to "The Dragon" office. Not knowing where the latter was, I went to the Mess.

I asked a Mess waiter to find out if anyone was in "The Dragon" office and he came back and said, "No, Sir." I then asked him to show me which was the office. He did so and we knocked at the door. No answer. He left me. I opened the door and walked in.

The waiter had told me that no one was there, but I saw across the office table, old Kirk, just out of bed, standing there, in his silk pyjamas, a perfect figure of a man and (as I knew him) a very gallant officer.

Yes, there he was, with the sun shining on his gold front tooth. Smiling, he looked at me and I could hear him say "Thank God, I have at last backed a winner."

I verily believe you have, my dear old friend.

A.W.E.

Note.—The present *Dragon* office was at one time the late Lt.-Col. Kirkpatrick's quarter.

ON SPION KOP.

It may interest your correspondent to know that these lines by Sir Henry Newbolt are engraved on the plinth of one of the cups which Captain Vertue (he was not a major) bequeathed to the 2nd Battalion.

F.W.T.

How to get "The Dragon."

FOR those wishing to receive the paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—

1 year 8/-, 6 months 4/-, 3 months 2/-.

Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

Spion Kop.

SEEING the quotation of the poem by Sir H. Newbolt on Spion Kop, in this month's *Dragon*, I feel I must pay my tribute of affection to the memory of my old friend Vertue. He was my Adjutant when I commanded the 2nd Battalion and no man could have had a better: he was a true friend, a staunch comrade, a good sportsman, a gallant soldier and the best type of British Officer.

There are, I am glad to say, many still left who can remember him and will bear me out in my testimony to his worth.

After completing his time as my Adjutant, he went through the Staff College and received an appointment at the War Office, and while there he was offered the billet of Brigade-Major to Major-General Woodgate in South Africa. He asked my advice about taking it and when we agreed that he could not but accept it, being on active service, in bidding him "farewell" I saw the look on his brave honest face which told me he had the presentiment that he would never return. His body was found by (Billy) Williams (who had succeeded him as my Adjutant, who was also a typical "Buff" and one of the very best stamp of officer possible) lying in front of a row of men on the top of Spion Kop, while gallantly leading a rush to take the position, the regimental officers having all fallen. I cannot speak too highly of him, his death was a sad blow to me and a very serious loss to his Country and the Regiment he loved so well. I am very glad his name is still on the regimental roll in the person of his nephew who has already distinguished himself in the Great War. I still have a letter from him, written to me on my vacating command of the Battalion which I value very highly. May we meet again in a better clime.

And now I should like to refer to the case of the grant of the V.C. to Lce.-Cpl. Smith, which I see alluded to in the same copy of *The Dragon*. I do not think it is generally known that I can claim the privilege of having obtained this honour for him, but so it is.

I had, when in command of the District, taken considerable trouble, though Lord Wolsley, who was then Commander-in-Chief, in getting the recognition of their gallant work for our party of men who saved the situation at Bilot, with the result that the grant of the D.C.M. was sanctioned for Smith and the four men named, one of the number—Pte. Nelthorpe—being my groom at the time at the Depot. This did not satisfy me and I attended the next Levee held by Lord Wolsley, which was done in those days, and his remark to me was "Well, Kelly, what can I do for you?" I replied that I was not content with the grant of only the D.C.M. for Smith. Lord Wolsley quite agreed with me and said he would send it back and recommend the grant of the V.C. for him. This was done and he duly received it. These are the bare facts and I have a copy of the whole transaction by me, which entailed a long correspondence.

Lieut. Watson, V.C., R.E., whom I knew, told me he was ashamed to wear his decoration when our lads who had done the work got nothing.

What I have written regarding Vertue applies in every particular to dear "Billy" Williams, who after going through the Nile, Soudan and S. African Campaigns, fell doing his duty grandly "somewhere in France" when in command of a Division, having been promoted to Major-General for "distinguished service in the field." It is a source of great pride and gratification to me, in my old age, to have been so intimately associated with two such splendid men.

W. E. R. KELLY,

Patricbourne,
Datchet,
Bucks.

Colonel.

Lest we forget.

WE are indebted to Lt. D. W. Hendin for sending us the following verses compiled by Pte. Hicks, late of the 6th Battalion.

It was after the fight one autumn night,
In the province of old Lorraine,
When two of our wounded English lads
Emerged from a village lane.
They had forced their way through the German lines,
Into the village street,
Where no one would dare offer shelter there,
Or a morsel of food to eat.

And as our lads limped painfully on,
They came to a village store;
They stood for a while as their eyes caught sight
Of a house with an open door
They went inside and an old Priest came
And offered each lad a seat;
He gave them food, saw to their wounds,
And bathed their tired feet.

Then they spoke of the fight, the terrible plight,
And how many a comrade had died;
When the old Priest looked at his Rosary,
"War is a terrible thing," he cried,
"For man must fight whether for wrong or for right
Whilst women are left to weep."
Then he gave up his bed to the two English lads,
And went to a chair to sleep.

It was on the morn the Prussians came,
With clanking swords and spurs,
When one of those Uhlan Officers said;
"You have been sheltering British Curs!"
It was on the morn a volley rang out.
The old Priest's race was run;
And to the terrible list of the enemies' crimes
They added another one.

There's a Lord to be met by the War Lord yet,
For when he answers for Rheims and Louvain,
For the outraged women, the lurid Priest,
And the little babes he has slain;
For on that day he'll be kneeling down
And for mercy beg and pray.
I wouldn't give much for the Kaiser's chance
On the Kaiser's judgement day.

"I don't mind dying," the old Priest cried,
"Like those who have gone before;
But may heaven forgive the man that has closed
My house with an open door."

Self Advertisement.

IT is time we were done with fruitless discussion as to the war service of so-and-so, in comparison with our own. After all, service on any front, or at home, was not a matter of personal choice. The battalion with which one served was ordered to its station, the units comprising the strength had to go where they were sent. Let it suffice that, in whatever capacity, each man contributed his mite to the sum total of service. Staff jobs, cushy billets? Be sure there was good reason why you did not obtain one. Perhaps, who knows, you were more valuable with the fighting forces? One part of a machine is as important to its smooth running, as another. You were one of millions, why, therefore, should you take undue credit to yourself?

Be content that you served your Country in her need; be proud of the fact, it is your right; but do not advertise it to be-little another! Probably the men who listen to you have done as much and more (if one

can do more than one's best) than you did. You make yourself ridiculous by parading your virtue. It is not like an Englishman to boast. Leave that to the lesser fry.

By serving with the forces, you have not discharged your duty to your Country. So long as you remain a citizen you have your part to play. "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than War." You must take your stand in the ranks of the great Army of Commerce and fight, as manfully as you did in the Great War, to bring your Country out on top. There will be time enough to argue, when you are too old to work.

ERIC C. FRENCH,
1/4/24.

Two Notable War Histories.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment,
1914-1918, (Simpkin).

The 12th (Eastern) Division in the Great War.
(Nisbet).

THESE two records of the fortunes of units in the Great War contribute a notable addition to the vast library of works dealing with these momentous and now too dimly remembered days.

The first is a considerable Regimental history in one volume. It is well planned and written in a style combining both liveliness of narrative with the very necessary detail of the record of the adventures of no less than eleven Battalions. A list of those who died on Service forms a valuable and impressive appendix and there are many useful maps. A few more illustrations of places from snapshots would have lent even greater interest to a book which must be treasured by all those of the Queen's Own who participated in the events which it records.

The 12th Eastern Division contained one of our Battalions, the 6th Battalion the Buffs, and there are many graphic and inspiring accounts of its doings in this excellent narrative. Amongst the six Victoria Crosses gained by the Division was that of Lance-Corporal (Acting Corporal) Cotter, 6th Battalion, The Buffs. The circumstances are well known to all Buffs who served in the War and the almost superhuman endurance and courage displayed by Cotter as related in the official account is an epic of great-hearted devotion and sheer "guts" (there is no better word). It will be remembered that, although one leg had been blown off at the knee and in spite of wounds in both arms, Corporal Cotter crawled fifty yards to a crater, steadied the men holding it, controlled them, altered their dispositions to meet a fresh counter attack and only suffered himself to be moved after fourteen hours of what must have been unbelievable agony. He died shortly afterwards, but before his death he heard that the recommendation for the V.C. had gone forward.

There are many useful maps in the book and the illustrations have been chosen to assist veterans to recall familiar places and also to encourage those to whom the War is but a vague memory, to study it and learn much from its story. This history leaves us with the impression that the 12th Division was something more than a splendid fighting unit.

The illustration to the article on the next page is from a photograph of Pensioner S. Phillips who was born on 19th March, 1837, and served with the Buffs throughout the Crimea and the China War. The photograph was kindly taken by Mr. C. G. Beresford.

Colonels of The Buffs.

No. 27. Lieut.-General Sir Nathaniel Thorn, K.C.B., K.H., *Colonel of the Buffs, 1854—1857.*

GENERAL Thorn, who was one of the first old Buffs to become Colonel of the Buffs, joined the regiment as ensign in 1802, was promoted lieutenant the following year and served with it until March, 1810, when he was appointed D.A.Q.M.G. of the 2nd Division, a post which he held until the end of the Peninsular War. He received a brevet majority in 1814 and, ultimately, the silver medal with ten clasps.

In 1814, as A.Q.M.G., he went from Bordeaux to Canada and was present at Plattsburg, where, it will be remembered, the Buffs were also engaged. Promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel in 1817, he was placed on half-pay in 1823, but, three years later, was appointed to the permanent staff of the Quartermaster General's department, on which he served for twenty years; during this period he was promoted colonel on 10th January, 1837, and major-general on 9th November, 1846.

In June, 1854, he was promoted lieutenant-general and a month later appointed Colonel of the Buffs. He was made a K.C.B. in 1857 (presumably in the New Year's honours) for he went to Windsor for the installation on 24th January, caught cold and, on his return home, died suddenly at Upcott House, Bishop's Hull, near Taunton. He was buried at Halse (Somerset) where there is a fine window to his memory.

General Thorn's appointment to the colonelcy found the Buffs still at Malta, where they had been since 1851, under command of Colonel C. T. van Straubenzee. In November, however, they embarked for the Piraeus to take part in the Allied (Franco-British) occupation of Greece; they returned to Malta in March, 1855. Their conduct in Greece called forth high praise from the British minister at Athens, who wrote to Lord Clarendon a report which ended with the following words: "If anything could impress on the Greek population a higher system of public and private morality, it is the lesson thus preached by the example of these men."

A month after its return to Malta, the regiment embarked for the Crimea and arrived at Balaclava on 28th April, 1855; it ultimately joined the 2nd Division. It was opposite to the Redan and took part in the operations there from June until the general assault on Sevastopol on 8th September. On this occasion the Buffs, under command of Major F. F. Maude,* were to furnish 100 men as a covering-party and 160 as ladder-party, and head the 2nd Division storming party. The remainder of the regiment, in spite of Major Maude's

request that he might have his own men behind him, was in reserve. The covering and ladder-parties were all volunteers and the former were selected for being good shots. It is not possible, in the space available, to describe the vicissitudes of the battle, but suffice it here to say that the Buffs, as ever, took all their objectives, and it was only when all hope of supports coming up was at an end that they were forced to retire.

For their services on this occasion, Major F. F. Maude, and No. 2649 Pte. John Connors were awarded the Victoria Cross, the following being the terms of the *Gazette* :—

Maude, Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Francis. 3rd Regiment.

Date of act of bravery : 8th September, 1855. (Crimea).

"For conspicuous and most devoted bravery, on the 8th September, 1855, when in command of the covering and ladder party of the 2nd Division, in the assault of the Redan, to which he gallantly led his men.

"Having entered the Redan, he, with only nine or ten men, held a position between traverses, and only retired when all hope of support was at an end, himself dangerously wounded." *London Gazette*, 24th February, 1857.

Connors, No. 2649, Private John. 3rd Regiment. Date of act of bravery : 8th September, 1858. (Crimea).

"Distinguished himself most conspicuously at the assault on the Redan, 8th September, 1855, in personal conflict with the Russians; rescued an officer of the 30th Regiment, who was surrounded by Russians, by shooting one and bayonetting another, and was observed inside the Redan, in personal combat with the Russians for some time. Was selected by his company for the French "War Medal." *London Gazette*, 24th February, 1857.

It may also be of interest to quote the *Gazette* in which Major Mark Walker

was awarded the Victoria Cross, for his services at Inkerman, in the 30th (now 1st Battalion East Lancashire) Regiment. Major Walker was promoted into the Buffs for his gallantry on this occasion and was in the Buffs when the award was made. His sword and medals are in the Officers' Mess at Canterbury.

Walker, Brevet-Major Mark. 30th Foot. Date of act of bravery : 5th November, 1854. (Crimea).

"For having, at Inkerman, distinguished himself in front of his regiment, by jumping over a wall in the face of two battalions of Russian infantry, which were marching towards it, for the purpose of encouraging his comrades by his example to advance against such heavy odds, which they did, and succeeded in driving back both battalions." *London Gazette* : 2nd June, 1858. F.W.T.



IN-PENSIONER S. PHILLIPS,

Served with the Buffs in the Crimea and at Taku Forts.

*Colonel van Straubenzee was promoted brigadier-general on 8th May, and succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel Paterson.

The British Empire Exhibition.

(being extracts from an article by Sir James Stevenson, Bart., Chairman of the Board, published in the April number of *The British Legion*).

THE British Empire Exhibition is the most ambitious and impressive example of co-operative action the world has ever seen, and in size, scope and grandeur as a national project it leaves all other exhibitions far behind. Many forces have been at work to bring it into being. For some years it has been in the minds of far-seeing men that an Imperial stock-taking would very soon be called for. Modern means of communication, increased facilities for travel, the rapid growth of the Dominions and the need for establishing big permanent inter-Empire markets to replace the palsied trade of Europe—all these things pointed towards a great racial jamboree. The project was conceived in the mind of that great Canadian, Lord Strathcona, in 1913, but the war caused it to be shelved.

After the conclusion of hostilities, however, the idea was again taken up, but this time with added enthusiasm because of the striking evidence we had had of the immense strides the Dominions had made in resources, finance, population, and the sense of nationality.

COMPLETE EMPIRE REPRESENTATION.

The fact that practically every part of the Empire is represented at Wembley testified to the growing realisation among all branches of the race of the need for closer co-operation and cohesion. The overseas people are turning out natural products in increasingly huge quantities. They realise that our vast industrial population can absorb all the wool, minerals, wheat and foodstuffs which they can send us.

We, on our part, require that large sections of our teeming population be given an opportunity of seeking new and less restricted markets for their labour under the Flag and among men of their own breed and tongue. We also realise that if this growing sense of interdependence helps Dominion development it will inevitably help our manufacturers, for within the Empire to-day lie all those potentialities of production and trade which go to make up the complete and self-contained life of a nation. It is a thrilling fact that this could not have been said about any nation or Commonwealth of Nations before in the whole history of the world.

DOMINION PAVILIONS.

The amount of space which the Overseas Governments have taken at Wembley is unprecedented, the area covered by the Exhibits of some of them being as large as that which the British Government itself has usually occupied in great International Exhibitions. Not only are India and the four great Dominions represented by magnificent pavilions, but the Crown Colonies are staging displays upon a scale which will prove that they are factors to be reckoned with seriously in estimating our strength as an Empire. Each of the splendid pavilions which have been erected by the Overseas Government will form a vast and complete exhibition by itself. The Indian Pavilion, which has been built to reproduce the architectural beauties of the Taj Mahal at Agra, is flanked by minarets 110 feet high and will contain displays of all those romantic and interesting features of industrial and social life in the Dependency which many of us have never hitherto been able to realise except through the medium of books and pictures. Canada's great railway system will boast buildings of its own, and the main Canadian Pavilion will illustrate in the most exhaustive and graphic way her resources in minerals, grain and timber. Australia is making a special effort to emphasise the astounding advance she has made in the wool-growing industry.

South Africa is sending a large flock of ostriches, which will be accommodated within a specially con-

structed Ostrich Paddock, near the Union Pavilion. Periodical displays of feather-cutting will be given. West Africa will make its Wembley home within the stained mud walls of a typical old native fortified town. Both West Africa and Hong Kong are bringing over contingents of their native workmen, and many others of the more remote Colonies are arranging displays full of local colour and designed with a view to show exactly what they mean to trade and commerce under the Flag.

THE BRITISH BUILDING.

The two most important British Buildings—the Palace of Engineering and the Palace of Industry—are now complete, and are receiving exhibits for erection. They are massive and impressive structures in concrete, and the dominant note which they convey is one of appropriate solidity and strength. They are fronted and approached by wide tree-lined avenues, and they radiate an atmosphere of vast national endeavour and progress. All the engineering and industrial organisations in Great Britain have combined to make the contents of those two massive halls representative of the very best Britain can do in all branches of utilitarian work. Great working models of every type of engine are being erected, and the processes involved in practically every kind of manufacture will be reproduced and illustrated. The electric trades will offer a fine show, which will include not only the heavy plant used in connection with lighting and locomotion, but all the hundreds of minor contrivances which go to make the modern housewife less and less dependent upon the domestic servant.

A RIGHT BRITISH WELCOME.

The arrival of so many of our brothers and sisters from overseas should see London, and England generally prepared to extend a welcome which will leave an enduring memory in their minds. Apart altogether from the fact that our visitors will spend considerable sums of money while here, we are called upon to convince them that Britain is still a virile country, that it leads the world in trade and manufactures, and that our nation's character still entitles us to be head and centre of the Empire.

We must, whenever possible, accord to them such a need of traditional British hospitality that they will want to come again, and will maintain touch with us when they return to their own wonderful lands. Everyone can help. Shop-keepers can brighten their displays, the municipalities can get their roads into a neat and orderly state, and the hotels can take particular pains to maintain and extend their usual courtesy and amenities. Many public bodies, clubs and professions have already launched hospitality movements.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The knowledge possessed by the average man both at home and overseas of Imperial problems has hitherto been somewhat vague. His ideas with regard to Imperial potentialities and resources have been sketchy. His belief in the Imperial destiny of the race, however, has always been sound. It is with the object of translating his speculative interest in Imperial matters into terms of active patriotism that a Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition, with the Prince of Wales as its head, has been founded. The Fellowship will recruit enthusiasts of every political school of thought throughout the Empire, and the aim of every member will be to assist the development of Empire trade and industry. Prizes and scholarships are to be instituted, the latter to be awarded to our young citizens whether overseas or at home, to enable them to travel and to be educated within the Empire. Judging by the rate at which applications for enrolment are being received, its great success as a factor in the development of Imperial sentiment is already assured.

Some Reminiscences (Continued).

BY COLONEL R. S. M. MOODY, C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

WE remained at Pinetown for about two months (August to October, 1879) and our sojourn was remarkable for the tremendous changes the battalion underwent. The old original Buff soldiers had now twenty-two years service and we lost them nearly all; in fact the only one I remember later on at Singapore, was my old friend the marker, Jim Walsh, so I suppose he had dropped a bit of service sometime during his career. Added to these great losses many sensible young soldiers, seeing prospects of a thriving Colonial life, bought their discharges and settled into jobs at Pietermaritzburg and elsewhere. This was made possible because everybody was in credit, it having been quite impossible to spend money in Zululand.

That these Natal settlers made good in their adopted country seems to be proved by the extract from the *Natal Mercury* quoted in *The Dragon* of last February. I allude to the obituary notice of one of them, Mr. A. O. Bodmer.

Ned Criddick, our company pioneer, was one who bought his discharge and when I expressed my regret that he was leaving us he explained the whole matter very clearly. "What I have in the Savings Bank," said he "is sufficient to buy my discharge. Being a stone mason by trade, Mr. So and So of Pietermaritzburg has offered me employment at eight shillings a day. In the regiment if I am lucky I may draw just about that number of pence."

While all the old soldiers were trooping off to England and Ireland and the best of the youngsters were buying their discharge, many of the officers, including Lieut.-Col. Parnell, temporarily disappeared on long leave, so, by the time our orders came for embarkation, we were composed of the majority of the men who came to us from other corps, when the Mauritius detachment went out and a large number of comparatively young fellows, who had however, most of them, had a taste of active service. Major Halahan was in command and he had with him Major Tommy Harrison, recently back from the depot, Captains Joe Hamson and Tish and ten or a dozen subalterns. Gleeson was now Sergeant-Major and some of the Colour Sergeants were quite young men, such as Stacpole and Ferguson. The former was given a commission in another corps about this time, a very rare event at this period.

Our stay at Pinetown was merry enough and we made frequent excursions to Durban, notably to a tremendous ball given by the people to officers back from the war, when our hosts showed their appreciation by absolutely flooding us with champagne. It was a memorable evening and many old Pietermaritzburg friends were present, the railway being now open between the two towns.

Your correspondent, Jacky Jacky, recently referred to Sergt. Shepherd. I recollect him well. He could not be promoted from Corporal for a long time, wanting the necessary school certificate, but the moment active service conditions obtained, he was made sergeant and I found him at Durban, Sergt.-major of the vast and troublesome mixed camp there, and doing his job splendidly after two colour-sergeants of other corps had tried and failed.

Of course many of us visited Pietermaritzburg. Vyvyan and I went there together and were received at the Hotel as if we were royalty, by the head waiter, who was Boveniza, late of our officers' mess. Tommy Hamilton and I also had a trip further up country by mule cart and on our way down we visited Rorkes Drift and Isandhlwana. We saw the latter just as it was

left after the fight except that little piles of earth and rocks covered the dead.

In October came the order to embark in *H.M.S. Orontes* for Singapore via Mauritius, Trincomalee and Madras.

Getting on board at Durban was a wonderful performance for our ship stood out in the open roadstead, there being no docks in those days. We all went off to her on the decks of big lighters and from these each soldier in full marching order jumped on board through a great square hole or port in the ship's side, each man being caught and steadied on arrival by a few blue-jackets. This system, if a slow one, worked pretty fairly at first, but the sea began to rise, and each leap became more difficult than the last one. After a while the lighters were alternately sinking far below the port or rising above its floor and sometimes grazing the great ship's side and at others swinging some feet away from her. Under such circumstances Private Charles Pavay of C Company came forward for embarkation, as he jumped the lighter rose so that the top of the ship's port caught him on the-helmet and knocked him into the sea between the two vessels and he disappeared. We were greatly concerned until, after about a minute, Pavay bobbed up again on the outer side of the lighter having dived to avoid being crushed. He was hauled into the smaller vessel again *still clinging to his rifle* and he immediately walked across the deck and jumped on to the *Orontes*, for that appeared to be the job required of him at the moment.

After this the work was stopped for two whole days till the sea went down, so that half the battalion was on board without so much luggage as a towel or toothbrush and the other half was bivouacking ashore.

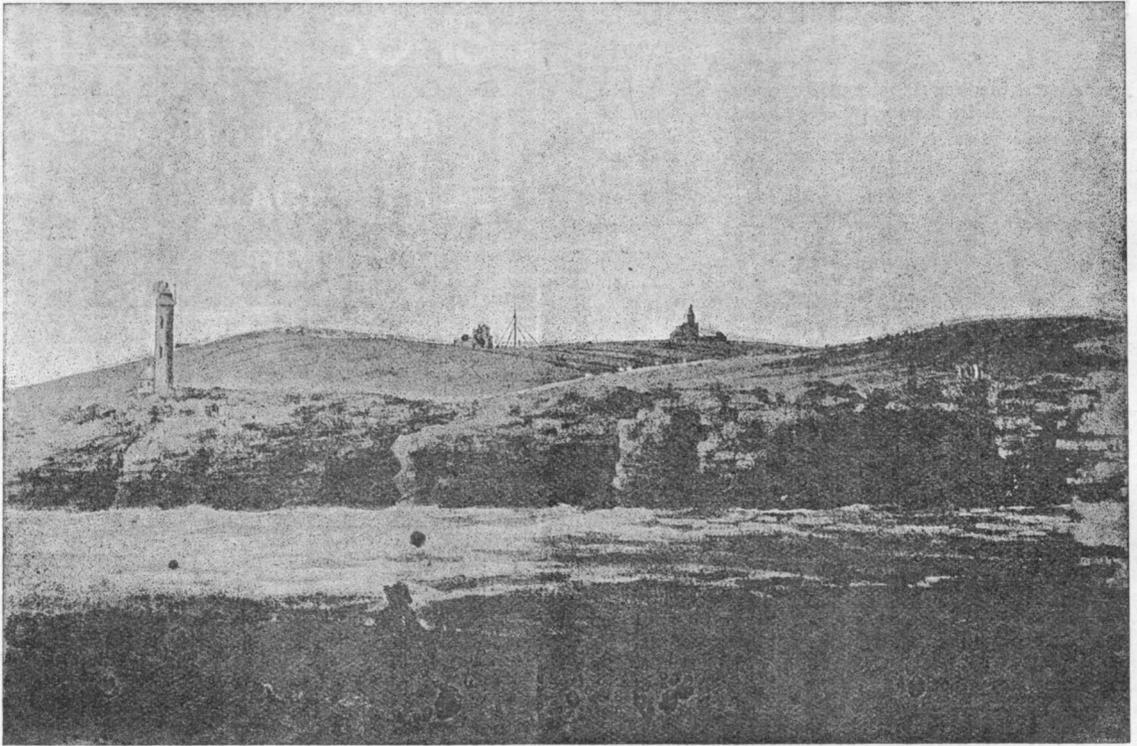
We had a very pleasant journey, the sailors being good fellows and Harness' battery of artillery (also on board) excellent comrades and so, sailing the summer seas, we brought up at the beautiful island of Mauritius where some of us had served so long. The old naval troopships took things fairly easily and we were for three enjoyable days at this place, we Natal folk being escorted round by our Mauritius comrades and being received with extraordinary hospitality by the Colonists. Our three companies had evidently been immensely popular and the local papers were full of our doings and even published a poetical effusion from a gifted and enthusiastic young lady. It is not easy to find appropriate rhymes to our regimental name, but I remember something about

"And are you bound for Singapore's bleak bluffs?"

* * * * *
A tear drops on my cuffs
Fairwell, dear gallant Buffs."

I like the idea of placid, equatorial Singapore, eternally sweltering in her tropic sea, being described as an island of bleak bluffs and it seems such a pity that the poor, dear girl should have soiled her linen on account of us. Trincomalee was the next stop. I never saw so large nor so interesting a harbour. The water as still as any lake and the encircling land so densely wooded that the high water mark was distinctly visible on the lower branches of the trees to which shell fish were actually clinging.

Some naval business was transacted here and we proceeded to Madras to drop our battery and then across the Bay of Bengal to our peaceful and quiet destination, which a good many old Buffs must remember, as both battalions have been there since the visit of which I write.



The Old Lighthouses at Portland Bill.

Sir Frederick Treves and Portland.

SIR Frederick Treves, the eminent surgeon, was a son of Dorset, being born in Dorchester. Soon after retiring from medical practice, he made a leisurely tour through the country on a "push-bike" and wrote an account of the various places he visited. His notes were published in book form under the title *Highways and Byways in Dorset*. About a dozen pages are devoted to Portland, from which the following extracts are taken:—

"Portland is an abrupt peninsula of rock, some four and a half miles long and less than two miles in width. Its sides are steep except at the point (the Bill) which is thrust forth into the Channel. Its summit is flat, and can nowhere be reached without a climb. Years ago the 'isle' was merely a sheep run, where pasture was found for hardy black-faced sheep, which were well esteemed. No really characteristic Dorset dinner is even now complete without 'Portland mutton' on the menu."

"The islanders eked out their uneventful lives as shepherd-fishermen until the day when Inigo Jones discovered the stone of the place and pronounced it good. The natives thereupon began to thrive, as they had never thrived before, upon the very dust of their native land. They ate into its vitals. They dug it up and sent it away in blocks by brigs and schooners and in trucks. Indeed, so many great and important edifices in the Capital were constructed out of the island quarries that it begins to be a question whether there is not as much of Portland in London as remains at the end of the Chesil Beach. Every year more and more of the island is carried away on trolleys, yet, like the burning bush, it remains unconsumed."

"With the passing of years, Portland became an important military station. To the north of Fortune's Well rises the great fort of Verne, with its bastions, its

earthworks, and its ditches—an imposing crown to the island, upon whose highest point its stands."

"But the strangest thing about the island remains to be told. There lies on the east side of it a tiny green-wooded dell, which, for charm and picturesqueness can hardly be surpassed. This is the Cove of Church Hope. The glen is narrow and full of shade, a most gentle hollow in the cliffs opening to the sea. On the summit is Pennsylvania Castle, a modern castellated house, built in 1800 for John Penn, governor of the island, and grandson of the founder of Pennsylvania. At the bottom of the dell is a small cove of shingle, where a wet beach glistens along a waste of rocks and brambles."

"Close to the margin of the cove are the ruins of the old parish church of Portland. It came to an end through a landslip, and of it little remains, but ivy-covered walls, an arched doorway or two, and certain venerable tombs buried among the grass of the churchyard. One gravestone bears the date 1692. The eternal quiet of the place is broken only by the sound of the sea."

"Upon a crag on the other side of the cove, stands the still gallant-looking keep of Rufus Castle, or Bow and Arrow Castle. The castle is reputed to have been built by William Rufus."

"There is another castle on the island, called Portland Castle, a block-house built by Henry VIII. in 1520, to prepare for a surprise by the French. It passed through the usual experience common to Dorset strongholds during the war between the Royalists and the Parliament, and yet remains in better condition than any. It is chiefly notable on account of the following inscription to be found in a closet over the gun-room:—

(Continued at foot of next page).

The Past and Present Association.

DONATIONS.

AS promised in the April number, appended hereto will be found a list of donations and subscriptions recently received to the Association funds consequent on the propoganda now being instituted.

	£	s.	d.
Major The Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P.	5	0	0
Sir Coles Child, Bart., J.P., D.L.	2	2	0
Sir Mark Collet, Bart., J.P., D.L.	5	0	0
Colonel F. S. W. Cornwallis, C.B.E., J.P., D.L.	10	0	0
Sir W. H. Crundall, J.P., D.L.	2	2	0
A. M. Fleet, Esq., D.L.	10	10	0
Mayor of Gravesend	5	5	0
Lieut.-Colonel The Earl of Guildford, J.P., D.L.	1	1	0
Sir Charles Jessel, Bart., M.A., J.P., D.L.	5	5	0
Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry H. F. Lennard, J.P., D.L.	1	0	0
Mayor of Maidstone	1	0	0
Mayor of Ramsgate	5	0	0
Mayor of Rochester	1	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Rogers, D.S.O., J.P., D.L.	5	0	0
Colonel Sir Henry Streatfield, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.	5	0	0
Major Lord Teynham, J.P., D.L.	2	2	0
Major F. W. Tomlinson	5	0	0
Mayor of Tunbridge Wells	2	2	0

EXHIBITION.

Some progress has been made in connection with the exhibition which it is proposed to hold in Canterbury in August, during the cricket week.

Colonel Kennedy and the officers, 2nd Battalion, have kindly consented to lend Mess Plate, etc., etc.; Major Tomlinson is loaning some fifty old Buff prints.

The Committee hope that all those who have in their possession any suitable and interesting articles, will offer them for exhibit, the cost of freight and insurance will be defrayed by the Committee.

ASSOCIATION BADGES.

Messrs. Garrett have definitely promised to deliver a supply of the new Association Badges before the end of April; immediate issue will follow.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES.

Captain H. Whitfield, Eddington House, Herne Bay, has been appointed representative for that area.

REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK.

In view of the letters received from the officers Commanding Battalions and the Depot, it has been decided that the question of holding a Regimental Cricket Week will be considered if and when the home battalion is stationed in the County.

BUFFS' HISTORY.

It has been decided that a second Edition of Colonel Moody's History shall not be published, and that the type shall be broken up.

BOY SCOUTS.

The Committee has agreed to give its support to the formation of Dragon Troop of Boy Scouts. Major Guy Lee and Lt.-Colonel Guinness, Chaplain, are dealing with the proposal which was strongly recommended and brought to the notice of the Committee by Lt.-Col. Eaton.

PAMPHLET.

As a temporary measure, it has been found necessary to engage additional clerical staff, to ensure a speedy issue of the Pamphlet the official title of which will in future be "The Handbook of the Past and Present Association The Buffs."

SUB-COMMITTEE.

A sub-committee is being formed with Major Guy Lee as Chairman, to deal with the arrangements for—

- (a) The Past and Present Cricket Match and
- (b) The Regimental Dinner.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The following assistance has been rendered to ex-Buffs and their dependents since last report:—

	£	s.	d.
Mar. 15. Grant to assist old man who is unable to get work	1	10	0
20. Grant to help man who has a large family and out of employment	1	0	0
20. Grant to help woman pay her son's funeral expenses	2	0	0
20. Grant to assist man to buy a little stock to hawk	0	10	0
21. Grant to help widow who has been left badly off	5	0	0
21. Grant to help man out of employment and in bad health	2	0	0
21. Grant to assist man to take up job away from home	3	10	0
24. Grant to assist widow of a very old soldier, unable to work	2	0	0
25. Grant to assist man out of work	1	0	0
26. Grant to help man unemployed, and has a large family, none of whom are working	1	0	0
26. Grant to help man out of work, has large family	2	0	0
28. Grant to buy man a few tools to help him work at gardening	1	5	0
31. Grant to help man out of work	0	10	0
31. Loan to help man take up a job and bring his wife and children with him	4	0	0
April 1. Grant to help man out of employment	2	10	0
1. Grant to assist man out of work, large family, none of whom are working	1	0	0
1. Grant to help man to move his furniture	2	5	0
1. Grant to assist man out of work and in bad health	1	10	0

In addition to the above grants and loans, situations have been found for four old Buffs.

The Past and Present Association,

THE BUFFS.



ARRANGEMENTS for 1924.

PAST v. PRESENT CRICKET MATCH,
July 19th, at the Depot.

ANNUAL DINNER,
August 2nd, at the Depot.

REGIMENTAL GOLF MEETING,
October 2nd and 3rd, at Sandwich.

Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Secretary as soon as possible.

Sir Frederick Treves and Portland. *Continued.*

'God save Kinge Henri the VIII of that name, and prins Edwarde, begotten of quene Jane, my lady Mari that goodli virgin, and the lady Elizabeth so towardli, with the kinges honourable counselors.'

"The 'goodli virgin' mentioned in this pious prayer is better known in history as 'Bloody Queen Mary'."

Sir Frederick Treves died last year, and his ashes rest in Dorset's county town.

THE REGIMENTAL MARCH.

(PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.)

The musical score for 'The Regimental March' is presented in five systems. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music is written in a march style with a strong rhythmic pattern. The first system begins with a treble clef staff starting on a G4 and a bass clef staff starting on a G2. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

C. 138.

N. 2565.

Old Comrades.

BY JACKY JACKY (late 2nd Battalion).

COLONEL Moody, C.B., in last month's issue, refers to the late Ex-Sgt. Fred Milne, and many others I have no doubt often think and wonder what became of him. I cannot remember whether he left the Battalion before I returned from England to Hong Kong in 1884 or after I had quitted the service. Naturally, when one meets a comrade in a far-off land one is anxious to obtain all the news possible concerning his old Regiment, so whilst stationed in Sydney I obtained information that Milne and Weary had taken their discharge and gone to Shanghai to join the Police; that Staff Clerk Q.M.S. Richmond had disappeared and that Foreman of Works, Q.M.S. Yeo, R.E., had been accidentally drowned from a launch in harbour on returning from a picnic. With what sorrow I heard the news at that period none can conjecture, nor can any of my old comrades imagine how that sorrow heightened as I gradually unfolded the last chapters of the lives of two of them *viz.*, "Milne" and "Richmond."

Milne and Weary were two of the straightest and finest fellows I ever met, "Soldiers and Men" every inch, but most unfortunate in that they unknowingly ran foul of the regulations and suffered reduction in rank at Singapore, hence their taking their discharges.

Finding an ex-member of the Shanghai Constabulary had joined the instructional staff shortly after I received

the news of Milne and Weary leaving the Regiment, I sought out the individual, from whom I gathered that the former had in the execution of his duty met his death whilst raiding a gambling den and that the latter had then left the Force and quitted Shanghai.

In 1887 I was appointed Sergeant-Major Instructor for Cavalry and Infantry in the Clarence River District N.S. Wales with my Head-quarters at the City of Grafton. One morning I called at the Police Court to interview one of my Captains who was then Clerk of Petty Sessions for the District; when I entered, he was examining a book containing the Records of Inquests and he exclaimed "I have a few old soldiers' records of death in this book, Whitmore. I'll read you a few," and he started and gave the details. To my great surprise he came to the name of "Richmond" and I immediately shouted "Halt. Allow me please to give a description of the individual to see if your man tallies with one of that name with whom I was intimate in Hong Kong." It tallied, and he gave me the record of not only the date and cause of death, but of his birthplace and home of his parents. He was found drowned in a few feet of water close to the Ferry Wharf and must have fallen in during the night. As many of you are aware, I was employed in the Military Secretary's office as Clerk with Richmond whilst I was awaiting transport to Australia.

Of Fred Milne and his bad luck, both in personal and regimental affairs we are most of us cognizant, and our sympathy went out to both him and Weary when they fell into a trap which was meant for other feet.

The 1st Battalion.



MARCH is a bad month; in Gibraltar it seems to excel itself. We have now had over seventy days of rain, and we are about fed up with it. We were told the other day, in all solemnity, that it has been known to rain frogs here, which beats the cats and dogs type into pulp. However, despite the rain, we have groused just as hard this month as last, and enjoyed ourselves just as much, or little, according to the state of our livers.

From the eighth to the seventeenth a number of officers went to sea with the fleet and we are hoping that one of them will relate his experiences before these notes are sent in.

The Fleet have been most unlucky this Spring, they started off with a submarine disaster, and a collision at Portland between two others. They have had appalling weather for their amusements at Gibraltar, and last but not least, enteric broke out in the *Royal Sovereign* during the exercises, between the 8th and 17th and they have been in quarantine ever since. This was most disappointing, not only to them, but for us, who have such a close liason with them. A Dance had been arranged between the W.O.'s and Sergeants of the Buffs, and W.O.'s and P.O.'s of the *Royal Sovereign*, which of course had to be completely re-organised. However, four of us managed to get aboard to say good-bye before they sailed for England on the 29th, and very sorry we are to lose them.

On the 7th we entertained the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir John de Roebuck, Bart, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., in the Mess.

On the 21st, the Royal Calpe Hunt held their Point-to-Point meeting at the Duke of Kent's farm. The country was heavily waterlogged causing many falls. The course was about four miles long. There were a large number of spectators in spite of the weather. A Field of thirty turned out for The Royal Calpe Hunt

Cup, concurrently with which was run the Inter-Regimental Cup, for which the Royal Navy, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Irish Guards, The Buffs, and the Staff and Departments each entered teams of four.

Captain Wilkins was brought down by a riderless horse and Captain Hart also came to grief. The race was won by Colonel Power's "Syren" owner up, Colonel Power riding a splendid race; the Irish Guards won the team race. In the ladies' race, Miss Larios was first, Miss Ryan, still in her "teens" was second, and Mrs. Strettell was third. The Naval Officers' Race was won by Lieut. Commander L. H. K. Hamilton, Lieut. O. Fogg-Elliott second, and Lieut. Harvey was third. Ten entries were received for The Buffs' Regimental Race.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | Lt.-Col. R. F. Power | Tuchrane | Owner. |
| 2. | Capt. N. G. Vertue | ... Fred | Capt. Wilkins. |
| 3. | Capt. N. A. H. Fox | ... Aladdin | Owner. |
| 4. | Mr. T. R. Reid | ... Caradoc | Owner. |
| 5. | Mr. P. R. H. Fox | ... Bob | Owner. |
| 6. | Mr. R. J. Tuke | ... Conah | Owner. |
| 7. | Lieut.-Col. L. W. Lucas | Grey Top | Owner. |
| 8. | Mr. G. L. B. Oliver | ... Jim | Owner. |
| 9. | Mr. A. J. D. Rose | ... Sir Desmond | Owner. |
| 10. | Mr. J. R. Willows | ... Speed | Owner. |

Colonel Lucas's "Grey Top" was withdrawn owing to late arrival at the post and Mr. Oliver scratched "Jim" owing to lameness. The race was run after a pelting rain storm, which only held off during the actual race. It was considered by all onlookers to be the best race of the day. All fell except the three placed horses:—1st "Tuchrane"; 2nd "Bob"; 3rd "Caradoc." All the runners kept close together for the greater part of the race. Mr. Rose had the only serious fall. He arrived in, in a semi-conscious condition and talked remarkable rubbish for some time. He recovered in time for parade the next day, being Orderly Officer.

We entertained the Hunt to dinner. The following were present:—El Marquis de Marzales, M.F.H.; Col. Scott; Major Hill; Major Pfeil; Lt.-Col. Buller; Lt.-Col. Pridham; A. B. Hankey, Esq.; Capt. Helps; Capt. Coxwell-Rogers; Major Baggallay; Capt. Martin, R.N.; Lt.-Col. Cummings and Fred, the Huntsman; also, Lt. MacDonald, R.E., who won the Subaltern's Cup, for being the first subaltern in, in the Hunt Cup. The menus and name cards were decorated with hunting pictures by Miss Anderson and Pte. Jenkins and the menu was topically composed. After dinner many speeches were made, and the cups were presented and filled with champagne in the good old style.

On the 22nd, *H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth* gave a remarkably fine Elizabethan play, written by one of their officers.

It was beautifully produced, and we feel sure it would be a success in London.

On the 25th, *H.M.S. Revenge* gave a variety Pierrot Show, which was very excellent, in which Lord Louis Mountbatten excelled himself as a light comedian.

On the 29th, *H.M.S. Barham* gave a most original variety show, which was full of humour and music.

The 27th was a great day, on which the Fleet held their review ashore. His Excellency, The Governor and the Naval Commander-in-Chief reviewed some 5,000 sailors and Marines on the North Front. The drill and steadiness was remarkable and a magnificent sight. In the evening, the Fleet Boxing Championship finals were held in the Naval Cinema. On the 28th, we entertained the Irish Guards to dinner. They leave on the 4th to be relieved by the Suffolks. We are all very sorry to see them go. The Navy have left us now and the harbour looks very empty, and the gaiety has died down considerably. Good Luck go with them. Their hospitality is wonderful.

The Officer in charge of Football has received a letter addressed as follows:—

"Signor Presidente del "The Bulls,"
Equipo de Foot Ball."

Apparently the opposing Spanish Teams are preparing for a Bull Fight on the Soccer ground.

T.R.R.

General Things we want to know.

(Unclassified).

1. Who was the N.C.O. who wanted to know how many inches there were in a pound, and does he perform on the oboe?
2. Who is Barney Google of A Company?

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since the arrival of the fleet, things have been very lively in our mess. It has been nothing to see forty or fifty C.P.O.'s and P.O.'s in the mess nightly. Our special chums being the P.O.'s of *H.M.S. Lucia* and her submarines, also from *H.M.S. Barham* and *H.M.S. Royal Sovereign*.

It was intended to hold a dance in conjunction with the latter on March 21st, but owing to an outbreak of enteric aboard the *Royal Sovereign*, they were prevented from taking part, which we regretted very much. However, the dance was run by us, and a good one it was too, and C.S.M.I.M. Farrow and his committee are to be congratulated. Several officers from *H.M.S. Lucia* and *Revenge* attended. It was much regretted that owing to a previous engagement our own officers were prevented from attending.

We held our usual spoon shoot during the month, the best eight competing against a team from the *H.M.S. Sovereign*, which we unfortunately lost by a few points, and pints. The silver spoon was won by Sergt. Pounceby, the "Wooden Un" by the Sergt. Drummer. (Too much Checkmedge).

On the 3rd April, we saw the last of the fleet steam for home, and our mess now seems very quiet and we shall all look forward to seeing them next year, in the meantime we have attached them to the 2nd Battalion Sergeants' Mess.

On the 4th April we lost four members from the Mess, three to a trade course prior to discharge and one for a tour of duty at the Depot. The former being Sgts. "Bob" Galloway, "Barnacle" and Sgts. Legge and Palmer. The latter being our old caterer Bert Daisley, never mind Bert, cheer up. Think of the old "two knocks," and don't forget the crosses. Do you get "Green Light" at the Depot?

I mustn't close without mentioning the departure of the Irish Guards for Blighty. We have rubbed shoulders now for close on two years. We welcome the arrival of the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment from Wellington. We have been greatly amused by the various concert parties from the different ships, and one was surprised at the talent that abounded.

We congratulate "Ravo" on winning a prize in the "Whose Who" competition. Did he select the Motor-Car or the bottle of Green-Light. I must ask to be excused briefly this month, as we are all very busy preparing for the Governor-General's Inspection.

Things we

want to know.

Is it true that "Bert" is to be promoted Admiral?

If the two members enjoyed their first visit to the Suffolk's mess?

Did the R.Q.M.S. enjoy a quiet evening on P.O. Everard's final concert?

"GUNS AND DRUMS."

CORPORALS' MESS.

Hello Everybody! Corporals' Mess speaking.

During the last two months we have had really a splendid time in the Mess.

The navy have been in harbour and we have taken full advantage of the fact and a series of



Mr. J. R. Willows and Lord Louis Mountbatten.

various games has resulted.

To give a full detail of our socials, football matches, etc., would be to ask the Editor of our famous *Dragon* to publish a special Corporals' Mess number, and I know that that could never be done, so I will only quote our most important events.

On the 4th of January we ran our first dance on this famous Rock. A very able committee under the Jazz-Kings—Meakins (Archie) and Glazier (Lew) supplied us with an absolute feast of music and dances, and—to put the story in a nutshell—placed another great success to the credit of the Mess.

A lot of minor socials were held during the remainder of the month, but as I was tasting the delights of furlough in England, and the notes are lost I am unable to render an account of them.

On the 15th of February we met and defeated a naval football team from the *H.M.S. Sandhurst*. After the match we entertained our guests to tea in the Mess and later to a grand social, which our friends acclaimed as the best evening they had spent for years.

On the 17th a party of thirty Corporals and families were most hospitably entertained in *H.M.S. Barham*, and afterwards the party were conducted around the ship. If the reader would care to understand the meaning of the word Hospitality I would suggest that they seize the very first opportunity of going aboard a Man-of-war.

On the 21st we were defeated by a team from *H.M.S. Barham*, and on the 24th another party of thirty Corporals and families were invited aboard *H.M.S. Sandhurst* where another grand afternoon was spent.

In the evening a novel billiard match was played between the Corporals' wives and our naval friends.

The Navy played left-handed and the ladies right. The ladies won by four games to one, which shows that our Corporals are not the only people that can play billiards.

On the evening of the 16th we defeated a team from *H.M.S. Snaphdragon* at billiards—the scores being Corporals' Mess, 535; *H.M.S. Snaphdragon*, 436.

On the 14th March I think I can say we held our most successful social evening. It was on that evening that—as the local press put it—the best dance ever run in the Rock was run—with a Capital R. A fancy dress dance was run under practically the same committee and don't think we are getting swelled heads when we say it was absolutely superb.

Dresses were glorious, and the judges (Capt. and Mrs. Hart) assisted by a neutral committee had the greatest difficulty in making their choice.

The prizes finally fell to:—Ladies: Miss Martin, dressed as a Turkish girl, and Gents: L/C. Powney, who appeared as a Buff of 1572. There are still a few points that are troubling certain members in the Mess, so I suggest that they are made public. Can anyone tell me:

Things we want to know.

- Is Mac. entitled to Field Allowance?
- Does Joe know the difference between McEwans and Ink?
- Has Mollie qualified as nursemaid?
- Has Tom been fitted for his rifle yet?
- Has Martin (Depot Staff) been excused coal fatigue yet?

BUNNY?

We defeated the Royal Marines in a Shooting Match, 12 a side, by 644 points to 622, L/Corporal Gunning did best for us, with a total score of 62—the highest score on the opposing side was Colour-Sergt. Brooks, 61.

CASEMATES.

When are the Corporals at Casemates going to erect a Boxing Ring in the Mess?

Is "Ben" saving his "Blues" for civvy life? Would'n't Chandles make a good Stoker? and does he know how to play "Poker."

Do our Corporals miss the Navy very much, or is it merely home-sickness that keeps them "at home."

Didn't the "Terrible Three" leave something behind when they went out on Saturday night?

Is "Wylo" trying to imitate "Inman"?

How does "Badger" like being on the "cot" and will he keep it up when he goes on leave?

When is Church going to challenge "H" again, and did he find it a paying game?

Who will mend the clock now?

Will it really be a wise policy to get a gramophone, because won't Wylo and "Powney" be left out in the cold?

- Did "Chilky" admire the stars?
- And was "Ben" sweating?
- Why does "Gilo" keep awake after "Lights Out," is it for the tap on the window?
- Does Reiman ever miss his way when he goes home?
- And will these notes really please everyone?

HEADQUARTER WING.

Machine Gunners.

Things we want to know.

- How long have Blankets been fit for human consumption?
- Who was the C.S.M. who lost a complete set of equipment, Rifle, Bayonet and Overcoat on the Annual Checking Parade?
- Who was the N.C.O. that was sent into the C.S.M.'s Bunk on the 1st of April?

There was an old man of Calcutta,
Who tried to write Buffs on a shutter,
When he got to BU...a pious Hindu
Knocked him head over heels in the gutter.

(OLD SONG).

Things we want to know.

- Who was the man who made out a handing over report when finishing defaulters?
- How much money has possey left at home, as he still gets his registered letters every week? (2,000 perhaps).
- Who was the man who turned out the guard (20) twenty times in a day to the General and butt saluted 41 times in half an hour?
- How do the machine gunners like Guards now?

H. BECK, Pte.
M.G.P.

THE SIGNALS.

Yes, we have at last awoken to the repeated calls of our 2nd Batt. Signallers and here we are ready to spread forth our woes. This past month has seen us busy at our training as we are all sweating on a Brigade classification shortly and we want to make a good show.

Sport we also have had in plenty. We have had some good football matches with A and D Companies and our neighbours the R.A.S.C., who we beat by a score of 4-1. Then there was fishing and hockey in strong demand, so we could not pine for want of something to do. By the time these notes appear we shall have our R.S.O. with us again we hope. We are all looking forward to his return from England where he has been on a course, and no doubt he will be glad to be with us again.

Our latest "listening-in" report, records the following rumours:—That Capt. the celebrated human glider, will take off from the top of the rock in his next attempt to break records. Also that Siki went for a ride on Pony to look for a Dhuryi but fell over a Cliff and found on some Hooks a Bone which Arker claimed for Kitty.

Things we want to know.

- Is Siki any relation to Cherry Blossom?
- Why Joe's birds committed suicide?
- Whether googles is on the Tack?
- Has Sailor taken over Ord. Sgt. of the Rock Apes, and has he any assistants?

COBLER.

A COMPANY.

The "Rock" is now resuming its normal appearance as the Fleet has left and life is not so lively as it was. The dances, etc. they arranged made many a pleasant evening and caused the usual "eternal friendship" among the 'Bar Dancers.'

On the 4th we had the pleasure of welcoming the Suffolks to Gib. and many of the "lower deck" paid a visit in the evening and by all appearances had a good time. The same day the Irish Guards left for the U.K. and we hope they will enjoy themselves in their new station as they did here.

Welcome to 2nd Lieut. Mallam on joining the Company and no doubt with his aid our goal average will increase.

Major Hardy has left us for England while Sergt. (Bert) Daisley has gone for a tour of duty at the Depot.

Very little sport has been played this month but we managed to "tin hat" "B" Coy. at football by the small margin of one.

There is a certain "breeze" developed about General's Inspection and of course plenty of whitewash is "floating" about, but I expect we shall get over it as usual.

THE ROCK APE.

Things we want to know.

- Who is the N.C.O., who, when on Guard, shaves with his equipment on?
- Why doesn't he wear a pack?
- Who done "hutchings"?
- Who is the king of the dago's? And does he use tatcho now he has bought a new comb?
- Is it right that one of "A" Coy.'s cooks is fed up with his nightly snacks?
- Who was the man that went rattling late one night?
- Is "Banger's" browned off, or has he taken on for his 21?
- Who was it that sat on the greasy paper?
- Where does "Clarence" go to every night?
- When is Dick and his crowd going to join the R.A.T.A.?
- Who is it that burmishes his boot studs?
- Who is "Jacko" and does he like his nuts?
- When is Mac—coming out of his shell to buy some matches?
- When is Cabby going to buy another accordian?
- Will it be while the Navy is here?

ANON.

B COMPANY.

During the Month of March we have had very little time to ourselves owing to "D" Company being struck off duty for firing and Company training and now we are getting ready for H.E. The Governor's Inspection. We have managed to find time for a few games of Football.

The most important match was with No. 3 Coy. Irish Guards in the first round of the Governor's Cup, and after a very good game we won 3-1.

1st Battalion—Continued.

Other Matches during the month were as follows:—

v. H.M.S. Commorant	...	...	5-2
v. H.M.S. Commorant	...	...	3-0
v. H.M.S. Snaphdragon	...	...	3-2

We have been very lucky as we have not lost a match in our last twenty games.

Before closing our notes we must congratulate I/Cpl. Pile on obtaining his transfer to R.E.'s and we shall be losing him in a very few days.

Things we want to know.

Has Curtis got his Hawking licence yet?
 Has Henman taken over his new job?
 Has Pony Moore bought the Babies Bonnet?
 Does the Company shake?
 When is Ben going to have a Moan?
 Is Howard mousing up for Xmas? or perhaps he is frightened that the tea will poison someone?

B.M.

C COMPANY.

Having now got well over a strenuous Company Training, we are preparing for Musketry, which will take us almost to the end of April, and decide whether we are to remain the best Shooting Company this year, and by the amount of Musketry Training we have had we should be, and by all means intend to be, though the weather has not favoured us much since we started, but we hope for better during the Course.

As regards Sport, we haven't much to say. We played a few practice games, but really, not half enough if we want to do anything next month when one or two important matches may take place, so get together C Company.

On the 27th we happened to be Judging Distance on the Race-Course, when the Naval Review took place, and we had the pleasure of witnessing it and thought it a very good show, though the weather did not favour them in the early part of the morning, and probably stopped a good many from going to see it.

Bayonet Fencing.

1st March. C v. E 23. Result: 6 fights to 2 for C Company.
 8th March. C v. E 14. Result: 6 fights to 2 for C Company.

Football.

5th March. "C" Coy. v. 54th Coy. R.G.A. Result: 3 Goals to 1 for "C" Company.

D COMPANY.

Since our last notes, nothing exciting has happened, except that the Fleet has left, and Gibraltar seems quite deserted after the dances, concerts and socials, etc., they gave. But all good things must come to an end sometime.

With Part II. of our annual scramble over, the company have now settled down to a month of training. February and March have the reputation of being the worst months in Gibraltar, and I don't think there is anyone here, who will dispute it.

For sport, we have found very little time, except for one game of football with the 1st Company R.G.A., which we won by two goals to nil, after a very good game.

The A.T.A. is going strong here now, and very soon we hope to have our own reading room and coffee bar at Casemates.

A Few "thats" that are interesting.

Tennyson could take a sheet of paper and write a poem on it worth £1,300.

That's Genius.

Rothschild can write a few words on a piece of paper and make it worth £1,000,000.

That's Capital.

A navy can move tons of dirt a day and earn 8/-.

That's Labour.

A mechanic can take a piece of metal worth £1 and make it into watch springs worth £209.

That's Skill.

A man can run a business for a time and not advertise.

That's Foolishness.

Some tradesmen do not study their customers.

That's a Mistake.

The landlord is waiting for his customers to give him the opportunity to supply them with refreshments.

That's Business.

Things we want to know.

Who was the N.C.O. who said, "when we go out, we get shut in and can't get out again?"

And was it the same N.C.O. who asked for a "large Intelligent name"?

Who was it said that the Duty of a Piquet sentry was "to be seen and not heard"?

Who was it said that the "main body comes out of the Piquet"?

R. & P.

Overseas Settlement.

(With this number we have pleasure in starting a series of brief helpful articles relating to settlement in the British Dominions).

No. 1. AUSTRALIA.**Assisted Passage Scheme.**

THE assistance granted under this scheme normally takes the form of a free grant of one third of the cost of the passage (at present £11). In case of need, further assistance by way of loan is granted towards the balance of the cost of the passage, (at present £22 in all), and in special cases a loan of the landing money required by the Australian Authorities is also given (generally £3). Free railway fares may be

granted from the applicant's home in the United Kingdom to the port of embarkation. In very special cases a loan of the fee for medical examination may also be given, but this information should not, as a rule, be given to enquirers. The amount loaned to the settler is repaid by monthly instalments (usually at the rate of £2 per month) commencing one month after arrival in Australia. Every person assisted must be approved as a suitable settler by the Director of Migration and Settlement for the Commonwealth of Australia before embarkation.

Subject to physical fitness and being of good character the Director is at present prepared to accept men who should, as a general rule, be under 35 years of age, able and willing to undertake farm work, women (under 35 years of age) able and willing to undertake household work, and persons who can be nominated by relatives or friends in Australia. It is not, as a rule, possible for families to be accepted without nomination, except under one or other of the settlement schemes referred to below.

There are special schemes under which boys of from 15 to 18 years of age are accepted as farm learners and placed by the State Governments with approved farmers

On arrival in Australia, migrants as a general rule receive free railway travelling facilities from the port of disembarkation to their final destination.

Applications for assisted passages may be made at any Employment Exchange, through any of the official agents of the Australian Government or any body or society recognised by the British and Australian Governments, or direct to the Director of Migration and Settlement for the Commonwealth of Australia, Australia House, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

On Pulling Together

We would appeal to all readers to back, whenever and wherever they can, the firms which are backing our venture with their advertisements. These houses are all of high reputation and they display sound commodities which are at all times in greater or less request. And please mention "The Dragon" when giving your order.

The 2nd Battalion.



THOUGH fully realising that the weather is a very faded and worn topic of conversation, we cannot pass it over without a word. Portland has had its full share, if not more, of the severe weather which has been experienced in England during the past month. We have had all types of weather, including snow, hail and an occasional almost warm burst of sunshine. We were filled with envy when Captain Howe wrote to us from the Isle of Wight, where he was spending a few days' leave, and told us that it was quite warm and sunny down there.

The chief event of the past month was the Cattistock Hunt Point to Point, which took place at

North Perrott (about 34 miles from Portland) on Thursday, April 10th. The races included a Naval Race and a Buffs' race, both of which caused immense excitement. In the Buffs' race we had nine starters, seven of whom finished. The result was as follows:—

1st.—Colonel Kennedy's "Favourite," ridden by Col. Kennedy himself.

2nd.—Col. Kennedy's "Fortune," ridden by Lieut. Hoare.

3rd.—Capt. Hamilton's "Blue Lagoon," ridden by Lieut. Turner.

Also ran:—Major Beevor's "Kerry Blue" (Owner), Capt. Field's "Bay Rhum" (Owner), Capt. Backhouse's "Mistletoe" (Owner), and Capt. Haymen's "Grey Lady" (Owner).

Lieut. Lister's Strawberry (Owner) and Capt. Howe's "Bolshie" (Lieut. Cartwright) took a strange dislike to the sixth fence and no amount of persuasion on the part of their riders could get them over. Lieut. Lister was unfortunate enough to fall at the first fence and to land in the only piece of water on the course. He mounted again, however, and carried on. The Buffs' tent, which was erected near the course, proved a very popular institution and was crowded to its utmost at the end of the day's racing at tea-time. The Band under Mr. Hewitt, played an excellent selection of music outside the tent.

On Saturday, April 12th, the Buffs' Amateur Dramatic Society gave a concert in the Gymnasium, and we are indebted to Captain Howe and his excellent organisation, as well as the untiring efforts of Cpl. Diamond and all concerned for a very excellent two hours' entertainment.

We have finished the first round of the Harris Shield Football, and the result of the round is as follows:—

1st—"D" Coy; 2nd—"A" group, H.Q. Wing;
3rd—"B" Group, H.Q. Wing; 4th—"C" Coy;
5th—"A" Coy; 6th—"B" Coy.

To-morrow, April 14th, "A" and "B" Coys., Band and M.G. Platoon go into their Summer (?) Camp at Chickereil for three weeks to fire the Annual Musketeer Course. This and "Summer-time," which came into force last night, are the only signs of summer we have seen so far, but we live in hopes. The O.C. Camp will be Major Howard Smith, and we hear that Captain Howe is to be Camp Adjutant. So we shall be back to the old days, when the Drummer, just about to blow Reveille, used to see Captain Howe, then the Adjutant of the Battalion, walking across the Square.

We were very glad to see Captain Morgan and Lieut. Spear down here last week with the Draft from the Depot. They both went over to North Perrott to watch the Point to Point, and we hope they enjoyed all they saw. It was a pity we were unable to fix them up with mounts.

B.A.D.S. Concert.

As the curtain goes up in the first part, the Producer, Mr. N. O. Good (Pte. Woods), is seen getting his stage ready for his show with the help of two stage hands, Horace and Maurice (Cpls. Wilson and Martin). The Call Boy, Horatio Blobs (Boy Banks) then arrives with a couple of telegrams for the Producer, which bring him the news that his Company is held up by the weather and that his leading Lady is indisposed. In order to entertain the audience, the stage hands, Horace and Maurice are called in to sing a song. Senor Mackintosh (Pte. Savage) and Professor Pierou (Sgt. Smith) are also enlisted to help. At the end of Part I, Horatio Blobs arrives with the news that the Company have arrived.

Part 2 shows the Company on the stage with the following programme:—

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. "One by One" | The Company. |
| 2. "The Adjutant" | L/C. Bennell. |
| 3. "House Hunting" | Cpl. Wilson. |
| 4. "The Bolsheviks" | Cpl. Martin, L/C. Bennell, Boy Banks and Sgt. Smith. |
| 5. "Nirvana" | Pte. Savage. |
| 6. "Parsons of Puddle" | Cpl. Wilson, Pte. Woods and Cpl. Martin. |
| 7. "Night time in Italy" | Sgt. Smith. |
| 8. "The little Stream" | Cpl. Wilson, Pte. Savage, L/C. Bennell and Pte. Woods. |
| 9. "Priceless Percy" | L/C. Towerzy, Cpl. Wilson and Pte. Woods. |
| | A Farce. |

It was a thoroughly good show, and proof of the fact that we have plenty of talent in the Battalion. It is a pity that more men of the Battalion do not show some interest in the B.A.D.S., even if only by attending their concerts.

Harris Shield Football.

- "B" Group, H.Q. Wing beat "A" Coy., 2-0.
- "A" Coy. drew with "C" Coy., 2-2.
- "D" Coy. beat "B" Coy. by 9-3.
- "A" Group, H.Q. Wing beat "B" Group H.Q. Wing, 2-1.
- "D" Coy. beat "A" Coy., 10-1.
- "B" Group, H.Q. Wing beat "B" Coy., 4-0.
- "A" Group, H.Q. Wing beat "C" Coy., 4-1.

Battalion Games.

On Tuesday, March 18th, the Battalion Hockey XI. played *H.M.S. Vulcan* and won by 2-1. Our goals were scored by Lieut. D'Arcy-Symonds and L/Cpl. Tutt. Our team was:—Goal, Sgt. Sidwell; Backs: Pte. Lee and Cpl. Pack; Halves: Cpl. Robinson, Lieuts. Penlington and Turner; Forwards, Lieut. Hoare, Cpl. Ward, Lieut. Cartwright, L/Cpl. Tutt and Lieut. D'Arcy-Symonds.

On Thursday, March 20th, we played the Anti-Submarine Flotilla at Hockey on the Naval Ground, and won by 6-1. The Battalion was represented by:—Goal: Sgt. Sidwell; Backs: Pte. Lee and Cpl. Pack; Halves: Cpl. Robinson, Lieut. Penlington and 2/Lieut. Haggard; Forwards: Lieut. Hoare, Cpl. Ward, Lieut. Cartwright, Cpl. Tutt and Bdsn. Day.

On April 5th, the Football Team played Weymouth Breweries on our ground, winning by 2-1. The team was:—Goal: Sgt. Smith; Backs: Pte. Wellard and Cpl. Wickham; Halves: Pte. Stocker, L/Cpl. Jewell and Pte. White; Forwards: Pte. Mullinger, Pte. Gosling, Sgt. Sidwell, Bdsn. Day, and Pte. Parker.

B GROUP, H.Q. WING.

The last match of the 1st Round of the Harris Shield Football Competition was played against B Company, who unfortunately only had a weak team out owing to two of their best players being away. We also did not have a full team, Sgt. Sidwell, our centre forward, being unable to play. The game was uninteresting, as we were by far the stronger team. We eventually won by four goals to nil, Godden scoring 1 and Knapp 3. Our team was as follows:—*Goalie*: Reynolds; *Backs*: Wellard, L/C. Moss; *Half-backs*: Walls, White, L/C. McLaren; *Forwards*: Falmer, Conisbee, Knapp, Godden, Parker.

The position of the respective teams at the end of the first round is D Company; "A" Group, H.Q. Wing; "B" Group, H.Q. Wing; C Company; A Company; B Company.

We hope to improve on this in the next round.

2nd Battalion—Continued.**B COMPANY.**

The month has not proved very exciting except that the Company has been on training. We are preparing for Chickereil Camp, but as the weather does not look very promising, we are wondering how things will shape out.

We welcome Major Howard-Smith to the Company.

The Harris Shield Football is finished, and we have secured the honoured position of bottom of the table. We have still to play each Company again and hope things will look brighter.

Things we want to know.

What did the M.C.O. in "B" Company do with the jam that was missed from the Mess? Did he use it on his billiard cue?

Why is "B" Company's football team like a packet of Woodbines? Ask Tubby?

Will "dead eye" be out of hospital in time to get his crossed guns?

Is Tubby Spooner "Shaving" up to get married?

What does it feel like to be in Civvies? Ask Duster.

Who was the fellow who "waked" up the Sergeant instead of Lofly? Did he run?

Do they wash shirts in Australia?

Did "Lofly's" knees knock when he went on Adjutants' Parade?

When is Blencowe going to stop growing?

When is the great Billiard Handicap to take place or do they prefer Skittles? Ask "Feirce."

J.J.

D COMPANY.

The Company which is on Detachment in Weymouth, held a most successful dance at Arcadia on the evening of Friday, April 4th. Dancing commenced at 8 p.m. and continued till 2 a.m. Two hundred and fifty people enjoyed the splendid music of the Buffs' orchestra, under Sergt. Bassotti, who excelled himself. Great thanks are due to him and the members of his orchestra for the success of the evening.

We were pleased to see Major Beevor, Lieut. Turner, Lieut. Cartwright and 2/Lieut. Haggard, who spent the best part of the evening with us. We are glad to say that after all expenses were paid, we were able to credit the games account with £7 odd.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Beevor on the birth of a son.

No. 13 Platoon are again with us at Red Barracks, and are still training very hard. A Platoon Cup has been given by the Platoon Commander to be awarded monthly for the most efficient section in No. 13 Platoon. This was won for the month of March by Cpl. Trice's section (No. 2). Congratulations to this section.

A Buff's Wedding.

COY.-SERGT.-MAJOR F. W. POTTER AND MISS D. M. FOSTER.

The marriage took place on Easter Tuesday, at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, River, near Dover, of Coy.-Sergt.-Major Fredk. Walter Potter, 2nd Battn. the Buffs, son of the late Mr. Wm. Potter and Mrs. Potter, 45, Military Road, Dover, and Miss Dorothy Mary Foster, daughter of Major F. W. Foster, late Quartermaster of the Buffs Depot, and Mrs. Foster, Sandymount, River. Colonel the Rev. P. W. Guinness, D.S.O., M.C., Chaplain to the Forces, officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a white georgette dress, with georgette panel trimmed with pearls and lovers' knots. She carried a shower bouquet, the gift of the bridegroom. Her bridesmaids, the Misses Doris Dare and Margaret Blundell, were attired in buff crepe-de-chine dresses and mob caps, and carried baskets of flowers, trimmed with buff and blue ribbons, the Buffs regimental colours. The bridegroom's gift to the bridesmaids were gold safety brooches.

After a reception at the bride's home, Sergt.-Major and Mrs. Potter left for London for the honeymoon, the bride travelling in a mole grey costume and pink hat, trimmed with pale velvet leaves. The happy couple were the recipients of numerous and useful presents.—*Kent Messenger.*

Odds and ends.

Squad commander on Depot Parade, disgustedly: "You have got dirty cars, look at them."

Squad Commander after Sock mending competition: "The R.S.M. says the Section commander never dies and cannot be killed" and now I quite believe him."

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Whitmore-Whitford.

MR. and Mrs. W. A. Whitmore-Whitford, of The Haven, Aerodrome, Bekebourne, and well-known amongst older members of The Buffs as Mr. and Mrs. Jacky, have celebrated their golden wedding. They were wedded on 30th March, 1874, at Colchester, while Mr. Whitmore-Whitford was in the 5th Lancers in which he served five years.

Mrs. Whitmore-Whitford was Miss A. Buss, and was born at the



Old Railway Cottages, St. Dunstan's, Canterbury, on 5th May, 1855. She was one of 16 children, and was reared and brought up in her native place, which she did not leave until she joined the 2nd Battalion The Buffs, at Singapore in 1881.

Born at Devonport on 31st December, 1854, Mr. Whitmore-Whitford's nick-name of "Jacky Jacky" was after a Character he once portrayed in a military pantomime performance. He joined the Navy in 1868, and served upon the *Bellerophon* in the Channel, when the late Admiral the Hon. Curzon Howe was a sub-lieutenant on that ship. He left the navy for the 5th Lancers, and served in India attaining the rank of corporal. From the Lancers he went to The Buffs, spending seven years with them in South Africa, Singapore and Hong Kong. He then went to Australia as sergeant-major instructor on the General Staff, in which capacity his military service came to an end after 14 years spent there. In July, 1898, owing to the failing health of his wife, he was forced to return to England, and was employed for two years at Messrs. Harrold's, of London. Next came a 17 years' term of duty at the War Office under the Fortifications and Works Department as senior clerk, at the end of which time he was obliged to retire on the grounds of age. He enjoys remarkably sound health, has the South African 1879 medal and clasp, does pictures in oils and dabbles in music, of which art he is no mean exponent. He was, during one part of his service, an army bandsman.

Mrs. Whitmore-Whitford has been with her husband in all his travels since their marriage, and has thus had much "knocking about," as she puts it. Unfortunately, her health is not quite so robust as that of her husband, but she is remarkably cheerful and bright.

The couple are the proud possessors of six sturdy grandsons in Australia, children of one of their sons who is farming there. The other son is a compositor on a Swindon newspaper.

“Beneath Bell Harry.”



AT the time of writing a profound quiet and stillness reigns at the Depot. Easter leave has arrived and all but the last joined recruits and the old married men have gone off to spend a long week end at their own homes. The barrack square has a deserted appearance only relieved by afternoon stump cricket organized by the R.S.M., who could not resist the accustomed fascination of the parade ground. The officers' mess president, enjoying a brief respite from the complaints of his

mess companions, is to be seen taking a well earned holiday in the mess garden. All the mowing machines within a mile radius have been used in turn in the effort to cut the grass and we suspect this early riser of attempting to complete the task at dewy dawn with a safety razor.

The Depot Band is much in demand this summer, and has opened the innings with a four days' engagement at Ramsgate during Easter. A large crowd has assembled each day to listen to the performances and appeared thoroughly satisfied. The vocalist turn, given by Sgt. Beasley, brought forth an encore more than once, which is encouraging to all concerned.

It is interesting to contemplate the various factors which govern recruiting in the Regiment to-day. It must be admitted that there are many desirable young fellows in the county either out of work or employed on some job eminently unsuitable to them, and yet we are short of recruits and are forced to accept men who have no connection with the Regiment or the county, and who often prove themselves unworthy of the honour of joining The Buffs. About 10% of recruits enlisted to-day are discharged within six months as being unsuited for the army. A full blown escaped lunatic was attested a few days ago at some recruiting office and sent down to the Depot.

Higher authority suggests many methods for stimulating recruiting and for placing before the public the advantages and the attractions of army life, but financial difficulties prevent the adoption of most of their suggestions. There is no doubt that the appearance of the Depot Band playing in the large seaside resorts of Kent assists recruiting. There is something in a military band, well turned out in full dress, which attracts the right kind of youth, and it is hoped that their value in this respect as in many others will be proved this summer.

The East Kent point to point was held on Easter Monday and there was a large gathering of old Buffs on the course. We were glad to see Colonel Gibbon, the late Master of the Shorncliffe Drag, win the Hunt Heavy-weight race.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

The following are the results of the Whist Drives held during the past month:—

Ladies' Firsts.	Mrs. Bissex, Mrs. Roberts and Miss Matthews.
Ladies' Seconds.	Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Osborne and Mrs. Dare.
Gents' Firsts.	Sgt. Holland, Mr. Bissex and R.Q.M.S. Ings.
Gents' Seconds.	Sgt. Rowe, Sgt. Osborne, and S.M. Alix.
Ladies' Boobies.	Mrs. Channer, Mrs. Keegan and Mrs. Tucker.
Gents' Boobies.	Mr. Argrave, Sgt. Holland and Mr. Edwards.

Although we are now experiencing "Summer Time" (according to Law only though) and the evenings are quite light the attendances at our Weekly Whist Drives and Dances do not diminish in the slightest. Which, as Euclid, would say, all goes to prove the popularity of the little gatherings.

We have got Sgt. Bert Daisley with us from the 1st Battalion. He arrived home from Gibraltar for a tour of duty at the Depot on the 9th, and we were all very glad to welcome him. He has enjoyed his sojourn at "The Rock," and given us first-hand information regarding some of our old pals who are still out there. We enquired as to the well-being of Percy Ransley, and were overjoyed to learn that he is getting on in tip-top fashion. When hearing this, we tossed off a Double Winox just for Old Remembrance's Sake. We heard, too, that Mrs. Clayton had safely reached her goal, was reconciled to her new surroundings, but that she had a rather rough passage with old Father Neptune when going through the Bay. Still, old Jock will have put that all right by now. But he's in Dock we hear. You really *must* be careful, George dear.

During the month we have heard from our old friend Jack Marchant (late Sgt. Master-Cook of the Depot) who lives down Somerset way at a place called Stolford-Stogursey which is near Bridgwater. We are confident that he will be delighted to hear from anyone who will drop him a line, and we are sure Mrs. Marchant will be too. They live in a most delightful cottage within a stone's throw of the sea, but, unfortunately, are ten miles from a railway station. They are very happy and comfortable, and in summer time they say it is like Paradise down there, but in Winter it resembles a place which is the very reverse of that.

We have no news of much importance affecting the Depot generally. R.S.M. Dare has already got his men at work practicing for the Torch-light Tattoos which will be given during the current year—the first, we believe, taking place at Tenterden about Whitsuntide. He has been inundated with requests for displays by the Depot Troupe, and it is not to be wondered at, when one recalls their magnificent efforts last year, particularly in the cause for Charitable objects.

Although all the lads taking part this year will be fresh to the business, there will be no dropping off in the excellence of the turn out. The R.S.M. will see to that you can bet.

We get many of the Old Brigade up to see us every week without fail. Dear old Jack Bennell (he's a wonder for his age), Tommy Groombridge, Tommy Holloway, etc., give us a look up, and it is quite a pleasure to see them in the Mess. They enjoy chin-wagging about the good old days of Bows and Arrows, just as much as we appreciate listening to the dear old files. They are living symbols of that refreshing old saying of "Once a Buff always a Buff."

And last, but not least. Our late companion here, and now C.S.M. of the 2nd Battalion—Freddy Potter—will be married on Easter Tuesday to Miss Dorothy Foster, the very homely and delightful daughter of Major F. W. Foster, late Quartermaster of the Depot. We are writing in advance of the event, but this will be our only opportunity of offering them our very sincere congratulations, and good wishes that come from the rock bottom of all our hearts that their future days may be ones of unalloyed happiness and contentment, and that God may bless them both. You *know* the "Old Crab" means it, Fred!

W.M.S.

CORPORALS' MESS.

Football.

Our football season has now closed and we are now practising for cricket.

We have had a fairly successful season, our record of 1st team matches being: played, 30; won, 16; lost, 9; drawn, 5.

Of the nine matches lost, five were lost by the odd goal. We have suffered very much from having to constantly change the team about through players leaving us, and the new players have taken time to fit in with the scheme of things.

However, wherever we have been, we have always done our best and have tried to play the game as it ought to be played.

We suffered a great loss early in the year through the R.S.M. falling out, a damaged leg causing him to be a spectator throughout the season. His influence on the field was a great asset and we all hope that next season his commands may come ringing up the field from the right back position.

Our second eleven (recruits) played ten matches and were beaten only once—a good record for those young soldiers and their experience will be of value to them when they join their platoons in the Battalion.

The first team, as a team, have pulled splendidly together, and have been a very easy team to manage, both off the field and on. May they be more successful next year.

Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Hamer, W.O. Collins, I./Cpl. Gilbert, Ptes. Laker and Shelton have been ever present, and have done well, and the other players, who at various times have filled the other positions have done splendidly also.

Beneath Bell Harry—Continued.**Cross-Country Run.**

We have had a very successful Cross-Country Run which was won by L/Sgt. Beasley's Squad (March Squad) a splendid effort for such a young squad. The first six men home were:—(1) Pte. Hunter; (2) Pte. Marsh; (3) Pte. Blake; (4) Pte. Billett; (5) Pte. Culver; (6) Pte. Chewter.

They will be trained to run at the British Legion Sports at Tenterden on Whit-Monday when a silver Cup and £2 is the first prize for a four mile marathon. Sgt. Ongley will have them in hand and we shall watch their progress with interest.

Privates Whist and Dance.

Our Monday night shows have now finished for the season and very successful they have been. Many a cold, weary night has been passed away in pleasant company both masculine and feminine.

Thanks are due to the Squad N.C.O.'s who ran them so well and to the band for their voluntary assistance.

We have a good selection of watches and safety razors in the Depot at the present time and we hope to have more next year.

Albuhera Day.

Albuhera Day once more draws near and we hope to have our usual jollification again, although unfortunately some of our side show merchants will be missing.

In addition, this year we hope to run a Torchlight Tattoo and Battle Scene on the Square. This has been composed by the R.S.M. and Cpl. Collier and given good weather, promises to be a big success. Already the R.S.M.'s biting whistle can be heard and the band are practising warlike music, wierd, but magnificent.

Privates Dance.

By the kind permission of the Commanding Officer, the Privates of the Depot held a dance in the Gymnasium on the 4th April. The attendance was very strong; quite 350 guests.

Ptes. Lewry and Banks were the M.C.'s. The former "Young Lou" carried out his duties splendidly and it reflects great credit on him, as this is the first time he has officiated at one of our dances.

The music was provided by members of the Depot Band under the baton of Old Ted Wise (sometimes called Boy Wise), our former billiards champion; among them was "Kotalka" Simpson who created a great sensation when a lady lost her brooch.

I noticed young Sandy among them; he disappeared once or twice.

Several new faces were to be seen among the dancers and on being asked what they thought of the show, replied "Top-hole" and are looking forward to the "next dance."

The Programme, which was a most varied one, consisted of twelve dances to each half, including two sets of "Lancers." "Upon me sowl!" It was a great big scream for the "gurrls," laugh! "I thought they were never going to get over it!"

The refreshment part of the business was carried out extremely well, also the decorations and a vote of thanks is due to the Sergeants' Mess for the great assistance they rendered to us.

The officers present at the dance were:—Captain Stronge and his good lady, Captain Cook and family, Captain Stone, who was leader of the marching lancers. We were sorry that Major Guy Lee and Mrs. Lee were unavoidably absent.

MOABITE.

The Street of Adventure.

BY CAPTAIN H. H. C. BAIRD, D.S.O., LATE THE BUFFS.

HAVING refused to sell my paper outright, mainly owing to the timely discovery that one of those most interested in its purchase was Mr. Horatio Bottomley, the immediate necessity was either to get "paid" put across my outstanding printer's bill by some means or other, or to close down: in other words if the flag was to be kept flying more capital had to be obtained. But rack my brains however hard, there seemed little or no chance of getting a solitary bean, leaving alone the several hundreds so urgently needed.

As a last resource, I tried a "S.O.S." A circular letter was drafted, some forty copies of which were despatched: some to friends; some to others who were also taking an interest in ex-Service matters, but whom I had never met; and some to those whom I knew to be amongst the wealthiest men in the British Isles.

The net result of this appeal was somewhere in the neighbourhood of £70, received, of course, from those

was, it was an altogether inadequate amount to enable me to meet my immediate liabilities, or to regard who could least afford to give it. Welcome as this the future with any sense of security. So, seeing the hopelessness of the situation, I very reluctantly decided that the next number of the paper should be the last, as I estimated that if I collected all that was due to the paper, I should just be able and no more to meet all its obligations, whereas a few more numbers would leave a deficit.

Accordingly my swan song was written and passed to the printers, and all other steps taken to wind up when a most remarkable thing happened. Actually when correcting the proofs of my last number, a letter reached me from a certain Cabinet Minister of the late Government, in which he stated that, though unable to help me financially himself, he thought that Sir..... might be prepared to do so were I to seek an interview.

Thanks to the telephone, I was able to get an interview on the following day, and here is the story of what took place:—

"I am afraid I am very busy, Captain Baird," were the words that greeted me as I entered Sir.....'s office "So I shall be glad if you will kindly tell me in as few words as possible why you have asked to see me."

"But surely, Sir, you already know?" I gasped. "No, I have no idea. All I know is that my great friend, Sir..... has asked me to see you, and that is as far as I have got. Now, what is it?"

Taking the latest copy of *The Ex-Service Man* from my pocket, and what a ghastly looking little rag it was, I handed it to him.

"It's that, Sir. Through it we are trying to get ex-Service men their rights; to tell them what they are entitled to, as neither they nor those who are working on their behalf seem to know; and above all we are urging, week in and week out, the formation of one united body of ex-Service men of all ranks in place of the many existing organizations, each one of which is being exploited by self-seeking politicians for their own greedy ends. No doubt you are aware, Sir, that....."

"And I suppose" said Sir..... cutting me short "that you are finding it a losing game and want some backing. Is a cheque for £500 of any use to you?"

"Really, Sir, I can't thank you enough. I...I...I..."

"There's no necessity. What thanks there are should be reserved for you and those who are working with you in the excellent work you have undertaken. Here you are. (With these words I was handed a cheque for £500). And now I must really ask you to leave me. I am already overdue at a director's meeting. So the best of luck to you, together with my thanks for giving me this opportunity of helping. Good-bye."

It is no exaggeration to say that the total time occupied by this interview did not exceed five minutes. Left to myself, I could hardly believe what had happened, when I suddenly remembered that, in about an hour's time, the last number of the paper containing my swan song would be going on the machines, so I made a dash for the nearest public telephone office.

I was just in time. The paper was not to be printed for another quarter of an hour.

"I've got five-hundred quid" I yelled down the phone "and for the love of Mike stand by until my return in about two hours' time."

Two days later *The Ex-Service Man* made its appearance as merry and bright as ever; and, for better or for worse, with at least another six months' existence in store for it.

The 4th Battalion.



WITH the advent of summer time, our activities have increased in all directions.

Miniature Rifle Competition. On March, 22nd, the Herne Bay team, representing the Battalion, took part in the finals of the Brigade Miniature Range Shoot at Tunbridge Wells. Although not successful against an exceptionally fine platoon team of the 4/Royal Sussex, our men, under the leadership of Sergeant Haywood, shot well. We hope, now that we know what we are up against, for greater success next year.

Tactical Exercises, for which a special grant was obtained, have been carried out by most companies. This form of spring training, more advanced than the stereotyped evening drills, culminated in a most successful Easter Camp held at Birchington by A and B Companies, and in a series of exercises and field days organized by the Folkestone and Dover detachments.

A and B companies camped on the range at Birchington. There was an excellent attendance and all enjoyed themselves. A fine spirit of loyalty was shown by many men who came to camp after being on night work, and others who, though obliged to work on Saturday, came back again in the evening. The Camp was under the command of Captain Dean, who had three other officers to assist him, while visits were paid by the 2nd in Command and Quartermaster. The feeding arrangements, under the care of our R.Q.M.S. left nothing to be desired. Work was mingled with play, and the hearts of the Beauties of Birchington throbbed again at the sight of our 4th Battalion men during those three balmy Easter evenings. Sergeant Glover's section from Canterbury carried off the shooting competition on Easter Day.

D Company, too, from Folkestone and Dover, carried out excellent work on each day of the holidays. On two days combined exercises were attempted by the two detachments, while on the other two days, work was independent. Attendances here, too, were excellent, and the keenness shown by some of the younger recruits, was most encouraging. The fine swing of the Folkestone men as they breasted the long hill on the Dover road, without a halt, could not have been surpassed by regulars. The Dover detachment were played out each day by the Corps of Drums, really a very smart and efficient body of men, under their able and popular Sergeant Drummer.

A Smoking Concert was held at Whitstable at the end of last month. An excellent programme, arranged by Lieutenant Turner, provided a very jolly evening for all present. Although no new recruits actually signed on, there were two or three promises and numbers in this detachment will soon begin to swell. An excellent report of the gathering appeared in the local paper.

The Weald Company has not so far, been able to camp or do much tactical training, but are determined to do a week-end camp or two when the weather gets warmer, and when their members can be more easily spared from work on the land. The proposed new miniature range at Cranbrook had a Board sitting upon it three weeks ago, and if their report was favourable, we hope soon, to see the work begun. Lieut. Moss

has arrived in this area, and has taken over the Yalding and Horsmonden platoons.

At the Depot just now, are three of our officers: Lts. Winch and Coote, who are qualifying for promotion, and 2nd Lieut. Wild, who is doing his initial attachment. Once again your contributor would like to thank the Depot for the hospitality and help they always accord to us, virtues of which we shall avail ourselves as frequently as possible.

And a word of sympathy must, in conclusion, be extended to two sorrowing families. Firstly, to the relatives of L/Cpl. Charlie Bourner, who was killed by the explosion of a steam pipe on the S.S. *Engadine* last week. L/Cpl. Bourner belonged to the Dover company and was a popular and able N.C.O. He was buried on the 25th with military honours, and many men of his detachment turned out to attend the funeral. And secondly, our great sympathy is extended to Captain and Mrs. Dean on the loss of their tiny son, who died last week. A very hard fight had been made for his life, but matters were otherwise ordained. It was very splendid of Captain Dean to attend and carry through the Easter Camp, when beset with so much trouble at home, and very good of Mrs. Dean to spare him.

M.I.W.

SITTINGBOURNE DETACHMENT.

All ranks throughout the Battalion will very much regret to hear the great loss to Capt. and Mrs. D. J. Dean, of the death of their son on the 11th April, and whose birth was only recorded in our March issue of *The Dragon*.

On Thursday, 10th April, a presentation took place, at the Drill Hall by Lieut. Chambers, on behalf of Capt. Dean, V.C., who was unable to be present, the gift being a marble time-piece subscribed by the Officers, W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s of this detachment to our popular N.C.O., Sgt. Clancy, on his marriage. The ceremony took place at St. Michael's Church on Saturday, 12th April, the detachment turned out in strong force, forming a guard of honour.

The best of luck and good wishes go to Sgt. and Mrs. Clancy from all ranks of the detachment.

WEALD COMPANY NOTES.

The H.Q. Drill Hall looks quite smart after its coat of paint, and the new road up to the door is a great improvement. We are still kept in suspense as to the new miniature range, but we hope to hear the decision very soon. We are looking forward to this improvement, as it will enable us to arrange several matches with teams from the district.

What a nice day we had for Sutton Valence races. We were very sorry to hear that the C.O. was unable to attend owing to an attack of flu. We are glad to hear that he is better and about again. Many Buffs we saw on the course both Past and Present.

This month has brought us two recruits and a number of those nice blue forms which are so pleasant to sign and which mean that the old members wish to extend their services.

Lieut. Moss has reported for duty with the Company. We wish him luck in his new duties at Tonbridge and hope he will be able to find a house soon. He has arrived in time to take over the Company while the O.C. Company is away at Canterbury on a Course.

The weather is much too bad to think of outdoor musketry yet, but the sooner we start the better, so that later, our week-end camps may be utilised for other training. The Brewers Wood Range is not yet completed, as it has been impossible to deliver the material to the Butts. It is hoped that everything will be ready for work in a short time.

PERSONALIA

We would like you to

SHORT SKETCHES

help us develop these features

REMINISCENCES

The Past and Present Association, The Buffs.

Patrons.

The Marquess Camden, H.M. Lieutenant for the County of Kent.
Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P.
Lord Avebury.
Commander Carlyon Bellairs, M.P.
Lieut.-Col. A. C. Borton, J.P.
Mayor of Bromley.
Mayor of Canterbury.
Mayor of Chatham.
Sir Coles Child, Bart, J.P., D.L.
Sir Mark Collett, Bart, J.P., D.L.
Colonel F. S. W. Cornwallis, C.B.E., J.P., D.L.
Sir W. H. Crundall, Kt., J.P., D.L.
The Earl of Darnley, J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Faversham.
A. M. Fleet, Esq., D.L.
Mayor of Folkestone.
Mayor of Gillingham.
Mayor of Gravesend.

Lieut.-Col. The Earl of Guilford, J.P., D.L.
The Rt. Hon. I. Hardy, Esq., P.C., J.P., D.L.
Sir Charles Jessel, Bart, M.A., J.P., D.L.
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London.
Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry H. F. Lennard, Bart., J.P., D.L.
The Rt. Hon. R. McNeill, Esq., P.C., M.P.
Mayor of Maidstone.
G. Marsham, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Ramsgate.
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Lieut.-Col. J. M. Rogers, D.S.O., J.P., D.L.
Lieut.-Col. Lord Sackville, J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Sandwich.
Colonel Sir Henry Steatfield, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.
Major Lord Teynham, J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Tunbridge Wells.
Brig.-Gen. W. Tylden, J.P.
Major G. C. Wheeler, C.B.E., M.P., J.P., D.L.

President.

General the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, P.C., G.C.B., K.C.V.O., Colonel of the Buffs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman.

Brigadier-General E. H. Finch Hatton, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Vice-Chairman.

Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Eaton, O.B.E.

Members.

Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Power, D.S.O., commanding 1st Battalion.
Colonel J. Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding 2nd Battalion.
Lieut.-Colonel E. B. Burns, commanding 4th Battalion.
Major G. Lee, D.S.O., M.C., commanding Depot the Buffs.
Major F. W. Tomlinson, late the Buffs.
Captain H. H. C. Baird, D.S.O., late the Buffs.

Secretary and Treasurer.

Colonel H. Findlay, C.B.E., late the Buffs.

Aims and Objects.

The aims and objects of the Past and Present Association, the Buffs, to which General the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Paget and The Marquess Camden refer, are as follows:—

- (1) To maintain and promote esprit de corps.
- (2) To help old Buffs to obtain employment.
- (3) To give financial assistance to old Buffs, and to their widows and children, who, through no fault of their own, may be in distressed circumstances.
- (4) To administer the Buffs' Cottage Homes, and ultimately to endow them.

- (5) To establish a Regimental Enquiry Bureau for the assistance of members seeking advice as regards pay, pensions, allowances, medals, historical records, etc.
- (6) To ensure that all regimental memorials are kept in proper repair.
- (7) To publish monthly the regimental paper—*The Dragon*.
- (8) To arrange for the continuation of the Historical Records of the Buffs.
- (9) To arrange an annual dinner, and such other re-unions as may be from time to time decided on.

Membership.

(a) Full Members.

The Association shall be open for full membership to all ranks of any battalion which bears or has borne the title The Buffs.

(b) Associate Members.

Any ladies and gentlemen interested in the regiment who subscribe to the funds of the Association, may become associate members.

(c) Honorary Members.

All ranks of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the 198th Canadian Buffs shall be honorary members of the Association.

(d) Life Members.

The status of those already enrolled as life members shall in no way be disturbed. From 1st October, 1923, no further life members will be elected.

Special Announcement.

The Executive Committee make an earnest appeal to all who are serving, or have served in The Buffs, or who in other ways are interested in the Regiment for the active support in increasing the number of Full and Associate Members; in making the Aims and Objects generally known; in finding

employment; in subscribing to the Benevolent Fund; and in furthering the interests of the Association in every possible way. May we send you a supply of the Handbook of The Association for distribution among your friends?

ROUND & ABOUT

BY
THE TRAMP



PREMATURE TALK OF SPRING. Last month there was a comment on this page on the definite arrival of Spring. That was a liberty which one cannot take with our wonderful climate.

As I write these notes there is a brief interval of watery sunshine, but snow fell heavily for about an hour this morning. I unreservedly withdraw the imputation cast on our versatile climate in the April issue of *The Dragon*.

CRICKET AGAIN. In view of the foregoing, one is a little too chary of dwelling too much on the fact that the first-class cricket season opens within three weeks, or in other words, when and if these words are read, the greatest game will once more have superseded for a few brief months the barbaric winter exercise.

THE TEST MATCHES. Soon, the South Africans will be with us ready to do battle and the great business of choosing the English XI., in which the Press seems to take so ready a hand, will be exercising the minds of Cabinet Ministers, Clerks in Holy Orders and Clerks in City Offices and all other right-minded people.

WEMBLEY FOR A TEST MATCH? No doubt the Exhibition will overshadow most events during the forthcoming season and I suppose those who have the real showman's instinct would like one of the London Test Matches to be staged in the great Stadium. It is doubtful whether even at Wembley (and Strike permitting) anything like a decent wicket could be made for years, and in any case, big cricket in London must be either at Lords or down at the dear murky old Oval, under the shadow of those decorative gasometers.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY CENTENARY. The "Celebrations" in connection with the completion of a hundred years of our greatest picture gallery, have passed. It is just, I think, to say that they were more dignified than enthusiastic. A writer in a London Evening paper very sensibly remarked that the rejoicings might have been a little more public and picturesque. It is true that a large number of Londoners know the National Gallery only as an excellent sheltering place during weather like the present, but nevertheless many know its treasures well and go whenever time and work permits to revel in the great collection.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY. Whilst on the subject of pictures, an interesting half-hour or more can be spent in this gallery which adjoins the larger collection and which can be entered by a doorway opposite the statue of Edith Cavell in St. Martin's Lane. Most of the great figures of our history are commemorated here in paint or pencil. Among recent acquisitions there are two gigantic paintings of the British Generals

and Admirals who were prominent in the War. The former painting is by Sargent and the latter, I think by A. S. Cope. I don't suppose either task was particularly gratifying to the Artist, for the canvases are huge and the figures life size or more, but it is interesting as a record.

ANOTHER WAR PLAY. A propos of certain remarks on this page in March, it is worthy of note that another play dealing with war time has been produced in London with great success. The "Conquering Hero" at the Queen's Theatre is playing to very large houses. I gather that it differs a good deal from "Havoc" at the Haymarket, in its treatment and represents the point of view of a man who had a conscientious objection to warfare, but who went and returned broken in body and spirit. It is clear that the title is ironical.

A REALLY AMUSING FARCE. Lighter fare than the war plays and a first-rate farce is to be found at the Aldwych Theatre where "It pays to advertise" is delighting full houses. I went a night or two ago and am not exaggerating when I say that my jaws ached half way through the first act. The story concerns a reckless son of a successful soap manufacturer, who is finally driven into business and who competes with his apparently unsympathetic parent. There is a good plot in it and a very clever company, including that real comedian, Ralph Lynn.

ANOTHER MEETING. Old 2nd Battalion men will recall Lieutenant P. G. Matthews who was with the Regiment in Macedonia. I ran across him a week or two ago in the underground, where it seems most old Buffs meet some time or other. He is with Storey's, the well-known Kensington firm, where his abilities as an artist, which many will remember, are given scope in the designing department.

THE SWASTIKA. There came into my possession the other day, a little pamphlet dealing with this emblem of good luck. It had long been familiar to me as a device stamped on the covers of the works of Rudyard Kipling who adopted it many years ago. A remarkable fact, set forth in the pamphlet is the very wide distribution of the Swastika throughout the World. It has been found in Japan, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Armenia, Greece and North and South America, among many other parts. The writer of the pamphlet deduces, probably with considerable justice, that this points to a common place of origin in antiquity, and advances the theory that it had its origin in Atlantis, the hypothetical Continent which Plato wrote about and which is believed to have been submerged, leaving visible only the tops of its highest mountains, the present Azores. An ingenious theory and by no means outside the bounds of probability.

More about Blinder and Dusty.

(THEIR ENLISTMENT).

THERE are few indeed who have not heard of Drury Lane and its surroundings. Once the playground of Jack Shepperd where thieves had their dens and prize fighters were bred like rabbits in a warren, this remarkable thoroughfare, and its immediate neighbourhood will always be remembered as the place where Nell Gwynne sold her oranges, and the Old Curiosity Shop first caught the eye of Dickens.

It was here that Blinder and Dusty were reared. Left early in life to provide for themselves and fight against the sufferings of humanity, they little realised that one day both would be members of a distinguished regiment, sworn to fight against the enemies of their Sovereign and Country. Blinder has often told the story of how, before he enlisted, he scraped together the necessary halfpence for a basin of stewed eels and a night's doss.

"It was like this 'ere" he would begin. "Every night I picked up fag ends in the Strand and when I 'ad a bagful on 'em, I sold 'em to a man who kept a bacca shop and 'e sold 'em again as a special mixture. Did'nt 'alf go with the toffs' oiver!

As for Dusty, I could never quite make out what he did for his basin of stewed eels: he often spoke about "the gawds up the Mo"—a short expression for the Middlesex Music Hall—and of cleaning boots and carrying bags outside Charing Cross Station. He prided himself that most of his money came from a touch of the cap and a "Carry yer bag Sir?" than he obtained in other ways. "And whats more, no bloke ever lost his blooming bag wiv me" he would impress upon his listeners. Rough and ready with an unorthodox vocabulary peculiar to their natures, both possessed hearts of real comradeship, and would even go without their stewed eels if someone less fortunate than they required it.

Perhaps you remember the days when the railings surrounding the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square had affixed attractive posters depicting branches and regiments of the army: how the recruiting sergeants hovered about like spiders always ready to coax and trap some poor unsuspecting fly. If so, you will appreciate how Blinder and Dusty got caught. There was no case of having a row with a girl, hitting the maid with a roll of music or running away from a palatial home. No! They were simply caught bending:—

They were gazing at a poster,
 Depicting Army life so gay.
 How to see the world for nothing
 And receive a bob a day.
 They were spotted by a Spider,
 Who told of a parlour grand,
 And tempted the flies to walk therein
 And see the better land.

As they entered S. George's barracks, the sentry turned out the guard for inspection by the orderly officer. Not understanding this detail of military duty, led Blinder to enquire of the recruiter. "Oh, the guard always turns out as a mark of respect to you chaps" replied the man with the red, white and blue ribbons. "A sort of welcome strangers to the fold: always do it when new fellows join up." Such brotherly love greatly touched our two new recruits, who, having only a couple of Woodbines and a bit of chewing gum between them, considered such a presentation quite inadequate, but never the less, did not prevent Blinder saying to the orderly officer, "On be'alf of me and my pal Dusty, fanks for turning out them 'er sogers and—

The intervention of the Sergeant of the guard cut short the expression of appreciation.

In a short space of time, Blinder and Dusty found themselves standing before a table at which was seated a fierce looking Dragoon Sergeant-Major, who, much to the curiosity of the two boys, possessed a rather bulbous nose and a terrible looking moustache with stiff peg top ends. Turning to Blinder he enquired his occupation.

"Ole Saler" replied Blinder with an air of importance, whilst the Sergeant commenced to fill in the attestation at the same time spelling aloud, O l d S a i l o r, which caused Blinder to interject to the amusement of Dusty, "I aint no blinking old sailor, I'm a ole saler."

The Sergeant looked more confused than ever as he asked Blinder to describe what he did for a living in order to unravel the mystery of words.

"Well, I supplies a bacca shop wiv bacca which they sells arterwards to people that calls in."

"Now I am beginning to understand" continued the man with the pen, at the same time swelling his chest that caused both Blinder and Dusty to step back a pace. You mean a wholesaler, young fellow me lad: thought you did'nt look much like an old sailor.

"And what are you" he asked Dusty, who hardly knew how to keep a straight face.

"Traveller" replied Dusty.

"And what do you travel in, my lad?"

"Bags."

"Yes! I know," replied the bulbous nosed individual, thinking Dusty was taking a rise out of him. "So do, er, er, the French Army, and whats more, you will probably find that sand does sometimes, and you'll have to carry the bags.

The next incident took place whilst the usual bath was in progress, preparatory to medical inspection. Somehow, the orderly outside forgot to turn off the hot water which made Dusty hop out of the bath quicker than he got in, at the same time yelling out, "Hi, awt there. Wot yer fink yer doin: boiling a blinking gammon or skinning a blooming pig?"

"Skinning a blooming pig" came the quick retort, which so upset Dusty that he was bent on having it out with the orderly the moment he got outside.

The ablution being over, the Medical officer commenced his performance by putting the two through all sorts of monkey tricks such as hopping on each leg, touching the floor with straight knees, shouting ninety-nine, and requesting each in turn to give a good cough. The ordeal being finished, Blinder looked tearfully at Dusty and said, "I dunno why 'e made us corf Dusty: I should 'ave fort sogers did'nt want a corf like that 'ere.

"I know" replied Dusty. "I 'eard 'im say 'fit for the Buffs' so I expect yer 'ave to 'ave a good corf to join 'em."

"Yus!" interjected Blinder, I told the bloke outside we wanted a cavalry lot so 'ees put us in 'em. Those chaps that wears the yellow stripes dawn their trowses and cords over their blinking chests: thats the Buffs."

When the time arrived to be sworn in it was inevitable that more trouble should arise.

"Can you swear?" asked the Colonel.

"Blimey! not 'alf" replied Dusty, "but wait till yer 'ear my pal Blinder: show the gentleman 'ow yer can swear Blinder!"

"Silence!" shouted the Colonel. "I mean, do you understand what an oath is?"

"Oh! exclaimed Dusty in a quiet tone of voice: "we don't call that swearing: oh no, thats mild. Yus, we tumbles to yer."

J.E.

(To be continued).

Correspondence.

CANADA.

Sir,

I was extremely pleased to receive your letter of the 4th of March and I will communicate your wishes to the Members of the Queen's Own Rifles past and present.

We are having the Annual Dinner of our Association on the 26th of April at the King Edward Hotel. This will be the 63rd birthday of the Regiment. Last year at the dinner, we had a reunion of over six hundred past and present Members of our Regiment and this year we believe that the reunion will count well over a thousand, and I have much pleasure on behalf of my Committee in extending to all past and present Members of the Buffs an invitation to consider themselves Honorary Members of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association.

One of my young Officers—Mr. Ralph Pearce, is just sailing for England. I gave him a letter of introduction addressed to the Colonel of the Buffs and I hope you may have the opportunity of meeting him while he is in England—a very nice young man, whom you will be glad to meet, I am sure.

Yours faithfully,

A. E. KIRKPATRICK,

Colonel Commandant Q.O.R.

Canada.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Sir,

I wonder whether any of your old 1st Battalion readers can give particulars as to the burial-place of the late L/6712 Pte. R. W. Mosto, who was killed in action on 15th September, 1916, near Morval.

Pte. Mosto enlisted, before the war, under the name of Price and changed his name later on. His mother is anxious to visit his grave, but is informed that the War Graves Commission has found no trace of his remains.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. W. TOMLINSON, Major.

94 Piccadilly,
W. 1.

SITUATION VACANT.

The Editor, *The Dragon*,

I am leaving Egypt in a few days and retiring from Government Service, so will you please send *The Dragon* to me C/o. Anglo Egyptian Bank, London, E.C.

I am in treaty for a house at Lyminge and hope to renew my acquaintance with Canterbury. Have you any Buffs that would care to come to me as servants and if so, what can they do and what wages do they want?

Union Club,

Yours faithfully,

A. R. LANGDALE KELHAM.
Egypt.

(Any applicants for the above situation should apply to *The Secretary, Past and Present Association*).

DISTANT FRIENDS.

Dear Sir,

I much regret having failed to send you earlier my annual subscription to *The Dragon*. I have been very busily occupied latterly in completing the building of my house in preparation for a wife to be taken on the strength next month. Hence the delay. I now enclose the amount herewith.

With very sincere wishes,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

L. R. PRICE.

Wylie House,
Nornalup,

Western Australia,

OLD COMRADES.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of meeting an ex-Buff in our Sergeants' Mess on Friday last, named Durham (late No. 6278365, 1st Battalion).

He is employed as a Police Constable in the Hants Constabulary, address, Aldershot Police Station. He is doing well and expects promotion soon.

During our conversation, which I need not add was about the Regiment, he informed me that he is not a subscriber to *The Dragon*, but would like to be, so will you please send him an order form in case it slips his memory.

Wishing *The Dragon* and the Regiment continued prosperity.

Yours truly,

Badajos Barracks,
Aldershot.H. W. CRAWLEY, Sgt. (O.R.S.),
1st Leicestershire Regiment.

A FALSE ALARM.

Dear Sir,

I notice that in the Personalia Column of your April issue that you prophesied the arrival in England of my wife and myself at the same time as Major and Mrs. Hardy.

While realising the keenness with which our return to England is anticipated, I fear that your statement has no foundation. The Depot Band are consequently at liberty to fill up the engagement which they must have held open in anticipation of our return.

Would you therefore be kind enough to give publicity to this correction.

Yours truly,

25 Cannon Lane,
Gibraltar.

E. F. D. STRETTELL.

TANKS AND TRAMS.

Dear Sir,

I notice in the April number of *The Dragon* under the 4th Battalion heading, a paragraph relating to a Tank Demonstration at Dover on 4th March. Are we to take this as another smack at our Tram Cars? Might I suggest that your correspondent in this case, does not "WOOL" gather in the future.

Yours, etc.,

Dover.

DOVORIAN.

LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU.

Dear Sir,

I think the following may amuse some of my old comrades! It is from an officer in India:—

"One of our fellows, up here on leave, has a very large nose, a regular "proboscis." He went to a fancy-dress dance here the other night dressed as a Pathan. During the evening, he was introduced to another man who said "I must congratulate you on your excellent kit, I've been admiring it all the evening, but what really has puzzled me is how you fix that damned awful nose of your's on! I can't see a join anywhere!!"

I hope *The Dragon* will enjoy it also.

Yours ever,

W. E. R. KELLY, Colonel.

K.A.R.

Dear Sir,

My son, J. C. Crozier, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, has gone to the 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Rowe, not *West Africa* as stated in the *March Dragon*. Will you send his copy of *The Dragon* to Nairobi instead of to Portland.

28 Brunswick Gardens,
Kensington, W.S.

Yours truly,

E. M. CROZIER.

ENGAGEMENT.

Sir,

I wish to announce the engagement between myself, No. 6278826 Lce-Cpl. Frederick Green, of 1st Battalion The Buffs, Gibraltar, and Miss Elizabeth May Nock, the third daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. Nock, of 55 Stoke Street, Ipswich, through *The Dragon* next month, April.

Please insert and oblige,

Yours obediently,

Lce.-Cpl. F. GREEN,
1st Bn., late 2nd Battalion.

Gibraltar.

IN DUBLIN.

Sir,

I am writing these few lines to let you know that I have not received this month's *Dragon*, I always like to read and know how the Boys are getting along.

I am still keeping my job as an instructor and I think it will last for some time, keeping fit and able. Please remember me to all the Old Boys at the Depot, especially Capt. Cook. Hoping to hear soon,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

19 Finn Street, South Circular Road,
Dublin. W. H. HOLMES.

HONG KONG.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th inst. at hand. Re-details of my service with the Buffs.

I enlisted into the 2nd Battalion on the 1/3/1904; was kept at Dover as head-quarter recruit. I served with the Battalion at Dover, Bulford, Harrismith, (South Africa); I was sent on a course of Saddlery at Cape Town and was awarded a skilled Certificate for same. After returning to the Battalion, I was employed on the Transport until leaving Africa to come to Hong Kong when stationed in Murry Barracks; I was employed as N.C.O. in charge of officers' Ponies when you, Sir, had four ponies, one being the renown Billy.

I was transferred to the Army Reserve on the 12/7/09 when I joined the Victoria Gaol staff as Warden from which, after a few years, I went to join the Sanitary Department as Sanitary Inspector which is my present employment.

On the outbreak of War I was serving in the Hong-Kong Volunteer Reserve (not being allowed to join the Volunteers as we could not get time allowed for camp and drills, the Reserve being more of a Rifle Club). After volunteering for active service on five occasions, I was allowed to go with the 2nd Hong Kong Police contingent which landed in England on the 29/12/15. I then rejoined the Depot on the 12/1/16; after staying there five days, I was sent to the 3rd Battalion at Dover. I stayed at Dover for six weeks and went to the 6th Battalion, joining them while on their four days' rest at Bethune. While with the 6th Battalion, I was employed as Divisional Scout and Observer, staying with them until being wounded on the Arras front on the 17th March, 1917, when observing.

I was awarded the M.M. on the Somme in the 1/9/16 for going and bringing the Divisional Scout Officer back when he was wounded.

After being in England about 12 months I went and joined the 8th Battalion, but only lasted six weeks before taken prisoner on the 23/3/18 near St. Quentin. I remained a prisoner until after the Armistice, arriving in England on the 14/12/18. After my two months' leave, I was sent to the Repatriation Camp at Winchester and was sent back to Hong Kong

There were only three of the Second Battalion who came home for the war, myself, Pte. Spillet, late of B Company, also Pte. Wakeford, who was killed at Hulluch in the K.R.R. All traces of Spillet are lost; when last heard of he was a sub. in the Chinese Labour Corps.

There are still a few of the old Battalion left in Hong Kong. One old chap, by name of Osbourn, left the Regiment when it was in Hong Kong 25 years before we got there (he is the old Dragon, when we meet him). Marks, late of B Company and Evans, of the Band, are Inspectors of Police. Foster, of D Company is Principal Warden in the Prison. Smirke, of D is Inspector on the Peak Trams, Palmer of B, is Sgt. in the Dock Yard Police, Mc Grath of D, is Examiner of Customs (Chinese) at Kowloon Railway Station. There was a Lieut. Harper here in the Shanghai Bank, but he is believed to be in Australia.

Cpl. Potter and L/Cpl. Oliver, of D, and Chapman of C, are all Examiners of Customs at Shanghai. I am glad to say all the lads who are in Hong Kong that left the old Regiment are doing well. I have also sent the Order Forms A, out to them so as they can send and join in the regular readers.

When O.M. Sgt. Potter was in the Depot, I used to get *The Dragon* sent on to me by his brother Joe, who is in the Chinese Customs.

This is all I know of the old Regiment at present, but if at any future time, I hear of anything that would be of any use to the Regiment, I would be very pleased to forward it to you. If at any time there should be a Post-card printed showing the new honours that were won in the Great War, I would be very glad to purchase same, as the Colours with Honours look well in silk.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Your obedient,

Hong Kong. Late 7897 L/Cpl. MILLINGTON,
The Buffs.

A Villanelle.

THE HOMELAND: SPRINGTIME.

WHAT song of mine can e'er translate
The beauty of an English day,
The springtime rendered consecrate?

The tender green inviolate
That beautifies the woodland way,
What song of mine can e'er translate?

The land that seems to meditate,
The golden mist on leaf and spray;
The springtime rendered consecrate!

The blackbird calling to his mate
Amid the snowy mass of may;
What song of mine can e'er translate?

A beauty all too delicate,
Re-born from Winter's long decay,
The springtime rendered consecrate!

What words of mine are adequate
This witching wonder to portray?
What song of mine can e'er translate
The springtime rendered consecrate?

E.C.F.

SITUATION VACANT.

Married Couple required in June by
The East Kent Club, Canterbury, as
Steward and Cook, 35/- a week, free
quarters, fuel and light. Applications
should be sent through the Secretary,
Past and Present Association.

Matters of Interest.

OFFICERS' PAY.

Revision of Officers' 1919 Emoluments on account of variations in the Cost of Living.

1. On the introduction of the new scales of pay and non-effective emoluments in 1919, it was provided that 20 per cent. of the rate of pay, etc., of officers would be subject to revision according to variations, up or down, in the cost of living, and that the first revision would take place in 1924.

2. It has now been decided, in view of the fall in the index figures for cost of living since 1919, that a reduction of approximately 5½ per cent. shall be made, to take effect from 1st July, 1924, in the rates of both pay and non-effective emoluments.

3. This reduction will not be made in the case of other ranks, their present rates having been granted in 1919 without any similar condition.

4. An Army Order will be issued in due course, with tables giving the actual rates of pay and half-pay, and the precise reduction in other non-effective emoluments.

5. The next similar revision will be made as from 1st July, 1927.

THE MONTHLY ARMY LIST.

The April, 1924, issue of the Monthly Army List will be produced in a new form and in a larger type. In these circumstances the publication will be necessarily delayed, but the book should be obtainable early in May. Some slight delay will be necessary also in the publication of the May issue. The March list, just issued, does not contain the battle honours of which the award was recently approved.

SOLDIERS' FAMILIES FOR AUSTRALIA.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia have offered facilities for a group of 20 families of soldiers who are due for discharge from the Army before the end of the present year, to sail next autumn for settlement on the land in Western Australia. Soldiers whose applications for these facilities are approved will, if otherwise qualified, be given a course of vocational training at Catterick.

Single soldiers without capital, who wish to settle on the land overseas, are also offered training at Catterick, and, if approved by the Commandant and the Dominion authorities, they will be guaranteed employment at suitable wages with selected farmers either in Canada or Australia.

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF.

The Annual Meeting of the National Benevolent Society for the Deaf and Deafened Ex-Service Men's Fund will be held on Friday, April 4th, 1924, at 4 p.m., at 142 Sloane Street, to receive the Annual Report and a Statement of Accounts.

The following is an extract from the report:—

Thanks are due to the British Red Cross, and to the United Services Fund for grants made to the Society, and to the Special Fund administered by Sir James, and Lady Dundas Grant, as well as the following Funds and Regimental Associations, for grants made to deafened men, whose cases had been referred to them after investigation by this Society:—

Buffs Benevolent Fund.

CHURCH PARADE.

Mr. E. Brown (Rugby L.) moved a clause abolishing compulsory attendance at church parade. The hon. member caused much laughter by saying that there was more blasphemy among soldiers on Sunday morning than at any other time. Renewed laughter greeted his statement: "I only speak for myself." The amendment was seconded by Major Moulton (Salisbury, L.). Major Burnie (Bootle, L.), in supporting the clause, mentioned, incidentally, that members of the Church of England tied some of his ancestors to a stake and the Solway tide drowned them. (Laughter).

Mr. Walsh resisted the amendment, which, he said, was one affecting to a greater or less degree the discipline of the Army. Captain W. Benn (Leith, L.) argued that the amendment was in a different category from the others, and did not affect the discipline of the Army. It was time this attempt to bias the religious convictions of the men should be done away with. (Hear, hear). Sir H. Croft (Bournemouth, U.) opposed the amendment in the interests of the young men in the Army. At the public schools and at the universities every young man was encouraged to go to a place of worship. (Unionist cheers). Mr. Foot (Bodmin, L.) said the statement of the Minister for War was unworthy of the Ministry which he represented. He (Mr. Foot) had understood that the Labour Party stood for freedom of conscience. Mr. J. Jones (Silvertown, Lab.) said that if he had been in the charge of a party of soldiers for church parade, such as had been referred to by one of the speakers, he would have led them to the village "pub.," more to their satisfaction. (Laughter). If chaplains had to do their work without compulsory powers they would put more vim into it. The clause was rejected by 164 votes to 114.

MEDICAL SERVICES DURING THE WAR.

Triumphs over Difficulties.

The Third Volume on the Medical Services, General History, forming part of the Official Medical History of the Great War, is now available to the public and may be obtained through any bookseller from the Stationery Office. The work is valuable in providing the general reader with a basis on which those who wish to study in still greater detail the medical situation during different phases of the war, may reconstruct with the aid of maps the chief features of the work of the Medical Services.

Considerable interest attaches to the part relating to the Somme Battle of 1916 when the problem of evacuating no fewer than 316,073 casualties presented itself for solution by the overworked Medical Services. Yet, in spite of these colossal figures—which covered the period from July 1st to November 30th, 1916—the Medical Services stood the strain, and very soon the machinery was working almost automatically.

A high degree of ingenuity was not seldom displayed in times of emergency. For instance, during the Battle of Arras, the physical features of the country were turned to useful account by Colonel H. N. Thompson, the Deputy Director, Medical Services, VI. Corps. This Officer made special preparations in what he designated "advanced dressing stations," but which, in reality, were so equipped as to perform the functions of main dressing stations. These were established in caves, and in cellars and basements of buildings, protected with sandbags and over-head bursting courses, on the outskirts of the town, and the chief of

(Continued on next page).

Matters of Interest—Continued.

them was fitted up in a large subterranean cave, from which stone had been excavated for building Arras in the 16th century. This cave, to which the name "Thompson's Cave" was given, was fitted with electric light and a piped water supply, and might have been invaluable but for the fact that on the third day of the battle a large shell exploded on the top of the cave, bursting the water-main and rendering the further use of the cave impracticable.

Other features of this volume are the advance made in alleviating suffering, during the protracted battle of Ypres, 1917, by the arrangements for increasing operative surgery in the casualty clearing stations in the front areas; the additional work thrown on the Medical Services during the Final Advance by the necessity of tending the civil population of the liberated areas; the formation of the Mediterranean Line of Communication; and the triumphs over desert transport difficulties in Palestine.

THE ACTION OF BAKENLAAGTE.

We have been taken to task for one or two apparent inaccuracies in the obituary notice of Mr. Lewis Gunner in our last number. We plead guilty, but must urge that it is not always easy, and in some cases impossible, to check every statement that is made by correspondents. We are, however, only too glad to correct any errors that may creep in, especially when, as in this case, they are matters of historical importance.

Our critic presumes that Mr. Gunner was wounded at Bakenlaagte and points out that it is improper to describe what was in fact, a rearguard action as a "last stand," although it is true that Colonel Benson was killed there. It is further pointed out that Bakenlaagte is in the Transvaal, and some hundreds of miles from Bloemfontein. Our critic, who was with the second battalion at the time, states that there were no "114 picked men," and adds that two and three clasps respectively should probably read three and two.

Editor, The Dragon.

MISSING SOLDIERS.

Inquiries continue to be addressed to the War Office regarding soldiers who were reported missing during the war. The most recent appear to have been stimulated by a report to the effect that two Belgian soldiers had escaped from Germany after having been kept as prisoners of war for nine years, and by a similar report concerning an Italian soldier who was said to have been in captivity in Manchuria.

Exhaustive official inquiries have shown that there is no foundation in fact for these reports, or for the suggestion based upon them that there may be British soldiers still held as prisoners of war in conditions similar to those from which soldiers of the Allied Armies were alleged to have escaped.

As a result of these, and other enquiries, the British Government are satisfied that no British soldiers are being detained as prisoners of war, or otherwise, against their will, in any enemy country or elsewhere.

BOY TRADESMEN FOR THE ARMY.

The result of the examination held last month of boys for enlistment into the Army for training as Tradesmen, was announced yesterday. No fewer than 240 candidates succeeded in qualifying. The examination comprised papers on English, General Knowledge, and Mathematics, and a considerable proportion of the candidates obtained well over 60 per cent of the maximum marks; some obtained as

much as 83 per cent. The successful candidates will be given a three years' course of instruction without expense to their parents, in one or other of some 30 different trades, including armourers, artificers, boiler-makers, carpenters and joiners, draughtsmen, electricians, fitters, wireless operators, saddlers, tinsmiths and wheelers. Their pay during training will be 1/- a day rising to 1/9 a day according to progress, and, on attaining the age of 18, the pay will range from 3/- to 5/-. The next examination will be held on 1st July.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.**Gratuity During Disablement.**

The maximum gratuity payable to men of the Territorial Army certified as unable to follow their occupations in consequence of disability incurred in future, in and by the performance of military duty, will be 5s. a day instead of 6s. as at present.

It has also been decided that injuries incurred by members of the Territorial Army during the period of annual camp, while participating in sports organized by or with the approval of the appropriate military authority, will be regarded as incurred in and by the performance of military duty for the purposes of pay and disability gratuities.

UNIVERSITY COURSE FOR ARMY OFFICERS.

Applications from Army officers desirous of being seconded in order to commence a University Course during the academic year beginning in October next, must reach the Under Secretary of State (S.D. 3), the War Office, supported by the necessary documents, not later than 30th June. Officers must be prepared to give a guarantee that they will continue to serve for at least three years after the completion of the course.

EXTRACT FROM "THE STAR,"

January 11th, 1814.

Major-General Byng's brigade, which so conspicuously distinguished itself in the last battle before Bayonne, consists of the Buffs, 57th regiment, and provisional battalion formed from the 31st and 66th. The Buffs is generally known as the London regiment, and has the honour of bearing the City arms upon its colours. Soult reported, he took them at the battle of Albuhera; but these same colours have again triumphantly assisted in the Marshal's defeats at the battles of the Pyrennees and every succeeding one, and may now be as triumphantly proceeding on the high road to Paris.

FOG OF WAR.

The following extract from the Official History may be of interest to some of your readers; it refers to the German operations on 20th October, 1914, and should give a feeling of satisfaction to any of the 1st Battalion who remember the day in question.

"The weakness of the British front, where the 'greater part of the XIII. (German) Corps spent the 'day in attacking two battalions, the Buffs and the 'Sherwood Foresters, seems to have entirely escaped 'notice."

Another conspicuous example of German ignorance of the weakness of the forces opposed to them was the first day (22nd April, 1915) of the 2nd Battle of Ypres, when there was nothing in the world to prevent them walking into Ypres after their successful gas attack.

F.W.T.

8th Battalion Dinner.

AT "YE OLDE MITRE TAVERN," CHANCERY LANE, April 12th, 1924.

Dear Sir,

The first Reunion Dinner of the 8th Battalion took place on Saturday, April 12th.

I enclose a report which I have received from Captain C. H. Cardozo and trust you will be able to find space for it in next month's *Dragon*.

I notice that Captain Cardozo has omitted to mention an interesting incident, which occurred during the course of the dinner:—Major Vaughan remarked that he noticed with very great pleasure that there were more representatives of his original platoon (No. 9), present than any other and threw out a challenge accepted by Mr. Barratt (late Lance-Cpl. Barratt) on behalf of No. 11 platoon to any other platoon, to produce more members than No. 9 at the next dinner. The wager was £5, the loser to pay this sum to the Buffs Benevolent Fund.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON LINDLEY.

GREAT credit is due to Lieut. Gordon Lindley and those who helped him for the excellent manner in which his dinner was organised. All ranks were represented and although it would have been a pleasure to have had Col. Lucas in the chair, all were delighted to find as president of the evening, Major Robinson, who as 2nd in Command, had so ably supported our gallant Commanding Officer (Col. Romer) from the time the Battalion was raised in 1914, to the disaster of Loos in September, 1915.

The Menu was admirably selected; the table appointments and the service were excellent and the authorities of "Ye Olde Mitre Tavern" were much complimented by all present. One could hardly have expected that after an interval of five years, as many as 80 men would respond to the re-union call. The cheerfulness and conviviality which was immediately established with the early arrivals, continued throughout the evening, expanding occasionally like the swell-pedal of a great organ. Greetings of old friends, faces well remembered, but names long forgotten, were still in progress long after dinner was announced. Seats were taken with no regard to ceremony, just as one happened to fall in—officers, N.C.O.'s and men, like school boys at a tuck shop.

None of that hushed suspense, usual at ceremonial dinners, just one babble of conversation and ripple of cheerful laughter from beginning to end.

The President, in proposing The Regiment, coupled with the King of Denmark, reminded us that the preferential treatment accorded at times to officers of the Buffs, who had the misfortune to be prisoners of war in Germany, could no doubt be traced to some kind consideration on the part of our Royal Colonel-in-Chief. As a "Service" Battalion, the toast of the Regiment was responded to with all honour and respect.

The question of future re-union dinners was discussed, with much heated argument and general good feeling, and it was unanimously decided to organize a dinner under similar circumstances once a year—the charge for dinner being kept if possible, within 5/- in addition to which an extra one shilling per member to be subscribed for sundry expenses; all arrangements to be in the hands of a small representative Committee with Mr. Gordon Lindley as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

After dinner, speeches were purposely restricted to the toasts, but the names amongst others which were received with pleasant memories and much applause were:—

General Capper, Colonel Lucas, Majors Worden and Rankin, M.C.

Those present were as follows:—

Majors	D. F. Robinson, A. G. Hamilton, J. Vaughan, A. E. Colley.
Captains	C. H. Cardozo, J. V. Hitchcock.
Lieutenants	E. Foster-Hall, H. W. Hearson, G. Lindley, L. A. Le May, S. Vaughan, A. Barton, C. F. Ashton, F. Sharpington, L. W. Martin.
R.S.M.	P. Dare.
C.S.M.	S. Chapman, W. Innes, G. Griffiths.
C.Q.M.S.	W. Buchanan, E. Leonard, E. B. Wittering, E. W. Wackrill
Sergeants	H. Holding, E. A. Lawson, H. P. Flint, J. Borley, Prebble, R. Taylor, W. Pimm, W. E. Smith, V. Norrington, C. C. Batchelor, J. A. Bonnell.
Corporals	Emmery, J. G. Scott, R. Waddingham, C. Ivens, T. A. C. Trumble.
L/Corporals	W. J. Barratt, G. Walker, T. G. Bax, G. F. C. Burry, Hems, R. Love.
Privates	E. T. Atkinson, J. Abbott, E. F. Barratt, W. Brooks, P. Beevers, C. Charlton, T. Heath, J. W. Hadley, G. Horncastle, R. Oram, F. Payne, S. T. Peet, E. Smith, H. Simmer, R. Wade, C. Williams, W. J. Cook, R. Bailey, D. J. Short, A. Stockdale, W. G. V. Kilner, G. Alexander, Austin, A. Land, H. F. Callister, H. C. Platford, Lovesay, S. Tracey, J. F. Hickey, W. Russell, J. Tate, F. C. Baines.

Regimental Gazette.

Lt. G. Blunden, from Res. of Off., Machine Gun, to be Lt., with seny., Nov. 20th, 1918.

Maj. H. S. Hardy, M.B.E., M.C., retires on ret. pay (April 1).

Capt. E. H. Allen is restd. to the estab. (April 7).

Lt. E. F. Hall, M.C., is restd. to the estab. (Jan. 3).

Lieut. G. C. M. Brown, M.C., posted to the 2nd Battalion to fill a vacancy, 29-3-24.

The 1st Battalion.

DECREASE.

4605279 Pte. F. Knightley, transferred to 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 3-3-1924.

1667971 Pte. R. Marks, 6279182 Pte. E. Thompson, 6279206 Pte. J. Terry disembarked at Southampton, 3-3-1924.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Promoted Corporal:—6278814 A/Cpl. H. Leeks, 20-12-23; 6279295 L/C. F. Papworth, 7-2-24.

Appointed Paid Lance-Corporals:—6279313 L/C. S. Bennett, 20-12-23; 6279194 L/C. C. Watts, 7-2-24.

BOYS—AGE.

6281043 Boy G. Taylor, attained the age of 18 years, 5-3-24.

6281517 Boy A. Lippingwell attained the age of 18 years, 11-3-24.

HIGHER RATE OF PAY.

The following are granted extra 9d. per diem on completing 2 years' Colour Service:—

6281506 Pte. H. Lingham, 6281515 Pte. H. Lenton, 6281514 Pte. J. Raite, 1667167 Pte. G. Edwards, 7144667 Pte. R. Crowhurst, 6281518 Pte. J. Wright, 6281519 Pte. C. Wickens, 6281520 Pte. R. Moore, 6281523 Pte. T. Cable, 6281524 Pte. S. Foulger, 6281525 Pte. B. Ward, 6281701 Pte. J. Ratcliff, 6281534 Pte. T. Chivers, 6281542 Pte. F. Simmons, 6281544 L/C. T. Deverson.

PROFICIENCY PAY.

The following have been granted Proficiency Pay:—6281701 Pte. J. Ratcliff, 6280194 L/C. W. Hadlow, 6281523 Pte. T. Cable, 6281486 Pte. T. Kite.

Proficiency Pay has been restored to the following:—6278408 Cpl. F. Baker, 6280076 L/C. J. Redman, 6279908 Pte. A. Dunk, 6279276 Pte. W. Madle, 6279311 Pte. F. Dorsett, 6280363 Pte. G. Wellard.

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE.

6280084 L/Sgt. W. Palmer extended Colour Service for 6 months to attend Vocational Course.

6279373 Sgt. G. Galloway and 6278072 Sgt. R. Legge, permitted to continue in the Service beyond 21 years for 6 months to attend a Vocational Course.

6280370 L/Sgt. A. Foote extended the terms of his present re-enlistment to a total of 6 years 240 days to complete 21 years.

CHIROPODIST.

6280011 L/C. T. Church, appointed Battalion Chiropodist, 17-1-1924.

EMBARKATIONS.

7578957 Arm/S/Sgt. W. Blake and Family, embarked per S.S. *Ostley* en route to U.K., 23-3-24.

6278498 Cpl. F. Beer and 6279321 L/C. H. Errington, embarked at own expense to attend Course at School of Education, Shorncliffe, 23-3-24.

Regimental Gazette—Continued.**TRADE TEST.**

1856303 Pnr.-Sgt. S Louth passed Trade Test as Carpenter and Joiner, Class I. Group B, 15-3-24.
6278118 Sgt. F. Potter, to W.O. Class II., and appointed C.S.M., 4-12-23.

The 2nd Battalion.**PROMOTIONS.**

The u/m L/Cpls. to the rank of Cpl. :—
L/C. Lendrim, 13-8-23; L/C. Trice, 29-9-23; L/C. Maplesden 13-10-23; L/C. Tutt, 23-10-23; L/C. Wickham, 7-11-23.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.

6279588 Sgt. Joy, extended to complete 12 years with the Colours, 24-3-24.
6279053 Colour-Sergt. (O.R.S.) Ricketts, extended to complete 12 years with the Colours, 8-2-24.
6278562 Bdsn. Carey, extended to complete 12 years with the Colours, 19-1-24.

STRENGTH-INCREASE.

2315628 Pte. Buchanan, Royal Corps of Signals, transferred to 2nd Bn. The Buffs, 7-4-24.
Recruit Boy Layard and Recruit Boy McLennan, specially enlisted for 2nd Bn. The Buffs, 24-3-24.

STRENGTH—DECREASE.

6278699 Cpl. Randall, posted to Regimental Depot, Canterbury.
6282169 Boy Smith, discharged K.R. Para. 363 (xvi.)

APPPOINTMENTS.

6282128 Pte. Hughes, appointed Bandsman, 27-3-24.
7109833 Pte. Chisnall, appointed Bandsman, 27-3-24.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.

The following were awarded 3rd Class Certificates of Education on March 8th :—

6281914 Pte. Humphreys (A), 6279196 L/C. Wilkins (A), 6357512 Pte. Palmer (H.Q.), 6281938 Pte. Deverson (H.Q.) 6282041 Pte. Kerry (H.Q.), 6281907 Pte. Parker (H.Q.), 6337429 Pte. Toms (B), 6281452 Pte. Gosling (H.Q.), 6282283 Boy Henriksen (H.Q.), 6282202 Boy Pullinger (H.Q.), 6281192 Pte. Eley (H.Q.), 6282079 Pte. Gowar (H.Q.), 6282086 Pte. Stuart (H.Q.), 6282007 Pte. Penfold (A), 6281968 Pte. Bones (B), 7339083 L/C. West (B), 6282236 Boy Banks (H.Q.), 6281934 Pte. Blencowe (B), 6281879 Pte. Taylor (B), 6281954 Pte. Knapp (H.Q.), 6281935 Pte. Warwick (B), 6281818 Pte. Shorter (C), 6281707 Pte. Clohessy (A), 6280914 Pte. Dale (A), 6281897 Pte. Holman (H.Q.), 6282009 Pte. Woodhatch (B), 6282137 Pte. Green (B), 6282084 Pte. Hooker (B), 6280497 Pte. Parker (B), 1667202 Pte. Parsons (C).

The following were awarded 2nd Class Certificates of Education on March 15th :—

6337420 L/Cpl. McNulty (B), (Distinguished); 6281877 Pte. Hird (B), (Distinguished); 6281635 Pte. Marsh (H.Q.), (Distinguished); 6278771 Cpl. Bromley (B), 6282284 Pte. Hallifax (H.Q.), 6282056 Pte. Hayes (H.Q.), 6282013 L/C. Vine (A), 6281753 L/C. Nash (D), 6280529 L/C. Goodsell (B), 735674 L/C. Chapman (A), 6279686 Bdsn. Brookman (H.Q.), 6279588 Sgt. Joy (C), 6281975 Pte. Hodges (A), 6279501 Cpl. Croucher (B), 6282043 Pte. Savage (H.Q.), 7816793 Cpl. Ridge (C), 6281599 Pte. Flood (A), 6282053 Pte. Church (C), 6282090 Pte. Crowley (A), 6282117 Boy Catt (H.Q.), 6281999 Pte. Wilson (A), 6281929 L/C. Martin (B), 6281842 Pte. Handscombe (C), 6281689 L/C. Spencer (C), 6281908 Pte. Aylott (A), 6281760 Pte. Bradford (H.Q.), 3848400 Pte. James (C), 6280828 L/C. Godfrey (H.Q.), 6281521 L/C. Stubberfield (C), 6279346 Pte. Reynolds (H.Q.), 6279195 L/C. Peatt (B), 6281759 L/C. Parberry (A), 6281821 Pte. Baker (H.Q.), 6281948 L/C. Woods (B), 6282129 Boy Brambleby (H.Q.), 6279062 L/C. Honeywell (C).

The Depot.**STRENGTH—INCREASE.**

Pte. W. Minty, Pte. L. G. Brown, Pte. P. O'Moore, Pte. A. E. Battell, Pte. R. J. Cummings, 6188637 Sgt. Daisley, A.M.M., Pte. J. Morrison, Pte. A. V. Goldsmith, Pte. H. Guy, Pte. F. R. Message, Pte. L. de Vroompe, Pte. J. F. Jenner.

STRENGTH—DECREASE.

6282221 Pte. Ash, 6282212 Pte. Bottomley, 6281185 Pte. Bills, 6282209 Pte. Brown, 6282219 Pte. Crick, 6653815 Pte. Cross, 6282210 Pte. Grigsby, 2559926 Pte. Lind, 6282224 Pte. Payne, 6282206 Pte. E. Smith, 6282156 Pte. Salsbury, 6282220 Pte. Tobin, 6282081 Pte. Anslay, 6282192 Pte. Weaving.

ATTACHMENTS.

7578607 Ar. Q.M.S. W. Vaughan, 6281141 L/C. H. Fordred.

DISCHARGES.

6282303 Pte. Sullivan, 6282338 Pte. Davey, 6282235 Pte. Jeffries, 6282372 Pte. Keech, 6282305 Pte. Russell, 6282297 Pte. J. Skardon, 6282266 Pte. A. Ladd, 6282291 Pte. F. Russell, 6279182 Pte. E. Thompson, 6282174 Pte. C. Hickman, 6281893 Pte. F. Dallas, 6282201 Pte. F. Sayer.

4th Battalion.

H. N. H. Wild (late Cadet, Eton College, Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.)

Capt. Bt. Maj. L. B. Grant relinquishes his commn. (May 31, 1922), under A.O. 166/21, as amended by A.O. 332/21, and retains his rank (substituted for that which appeared in *Gazette* Feb. 15).

Lt.-Col. F. M. Dunstan, Lt.D. is ret. on completion of tenure of cmd. and retains rank of Lt.-Col., with permission to wear prescribed uniform (March 20); Maj. E. B. Burns to be Lt.-Col. (March 20).

The u/m to be 2/Lieut., dated 17th March, 1924 :—

Harry Noel Havelock Wild (late Cadet, Eton College Contingent, Junior Division, O.T.C.)

The a/n officer is posted to "B" Coy. (Canterbury) w/e from 17-3-24.

COMMAND.

(a) Lt.-Col. E. B. Burns will take over command of the 4th battalion vice Lt.-Col. F. M. Dunstan, T.D., retired w/e from 20-3-24.

(b) Major J. H. S. Allen will take over the duties of 2nd i/Command vice Lt.-Col. E. B. Burns promoted w/e from 20-3-24.

(c) Capt. E. J. Dean, V.C., will take over command and payment of "B" Company as from 20-3-24. Handing over certificate as to correctness of stores, etc., taken over will be rendered to this office.

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June, 1924.

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Personalia.

HIS Majesty King Christian X., Colonel-in-Chief of the Buffs, has graciously consented to become Patron of the Past and Present Association.

The notification was conveyed through the Danish Minister in London, but, unfortunately, too late to allow of His Majesty's name appearing in the handbook of the Association for the current year.

General Sir Arthur Paget, Colonel of the Buffs, has returned to England from the South of France; he and Major-General B. R. Mitford were at the State Ball on the 14th May.

Colonel Sir Theodore Brinckman is now convalescent after his recent operation.

We make no apology for appealing to those of our readers who are concerned, to send a donation to the Sandhurst Memorial, of which further particulars will be found on page 177.

We are well aware that many of our readers have already subscribed to other memorials, but the fact remains that we are one of the few regiments who, at present, have not put up a panel at Sandhurst.

The Committee of the Past and Present Association in addition to monthly notices in *The Dragon*, have, during the last six months, circularized all old Sandhurst cadets, as well as the next-of-kin of officers who lost their lives.

Colonel and Mrs. McDouall have left Canterbury and returned to South Wales, Colonel McDouall has, however, taken a house near Nackington (4 miles from Canterbury) and expects to be established there early in August.

We hear from Colonel Bradley Dyne that there are no Buffs in his area looking for work; we wish the same could be said about other districts.

Colonel R. E. and Mrs. Power hope to be in Canterbury during the Cricket Week; at present they are on a motor tour in Southern Spain.

Lieut.-Colonel W. G. F. Barnard has just returned to South Africa, after some months' stay in England. He is still in the Barberton (Transvaal) district.

We hear that Major W. H. Booth has been very successful on the Wye lately, his latest and biggest catch being a 29 pounder.

We congratulate Major G. A. Porter on the good fight he put up in the foursome competition on his birthday, at Barham, Somerset. In spite of a bad cold, he and his partner, Hughes Martin, reached the final.

In the semi-final they were three down and four to play, but on the 18th one up.

We heard all about the great match, from the victors, at Newmarket, on Guinea's Day, when, thanks to an animal named "Shippon" in which we believe Major Porter has a friendly interest, we also turned what looked like certain defeat into victory.

Major R. P. S. Elderton is home on leave from the Sudan; he expects to return about July.

Major J. Crookenden has arrived home from West Africa. He is looking very fit and is as full of energy as ever; he contemplates a cheery leave at the Senior Officers' School, Sheerness.

Major the Hon. P. G. Scarlett has been on a Staff tour in France and Flanders; he is still brigadier-major of the 3rd Infantry Brigade at Bordon.

A very interesting and closely contested tennis match took place the other day near Faversham, when Major F. W. Tomlinson defeated Major J. Crookenden by the shortest of heads.

Captain R. K. Price has been playing a good deal of tennis lately—notably in the Amateur Single and Four-handed Championships at Queen's Club.

Captain N. S. Hart has been offered, and has accepted, the appointment of G.S.O. 2, Palestine. He has left Gibraltar to take up his new appointment *via* England, so we hope to see something of him before he sails.

Captain D. A. Wilkins is expected home on three month's leave at the beginning of June. His address will be United Services Club, Pall Mall.

We were extremely sorry to hear that Captain Nicholas is dangerously ill at his home, Way Bank Bungalow, Minster, Nr. Ramsgate.

We congratulate Captain N. D. Rice and C.S.M. Ambrose on obtaining a "D" certificate at the recent course at Hythe. It is worthy of note that Captain Rice was the one and only officer out of the hundred attending the course, who gained this distinction.

Area representatives are very busy just now, from general downwards, distributing posters notifying the Buff re-unions for this year.

We think that it is not every retired General who would turn bill-poster for the benefit of his old Regiment. We hope that such love may be rewarded, and that record numbers will be present this year at all re-unions.

Mrs. and Miss Ingouville-Williams are travelling in Italy.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Goff, who only recently came back from the Riviera, has since her return, met with a motor accident. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We congratulate Mr. C. G. W. Robson on the good start he made in the cricket season, when playing for P. F. Warners XI. against the R.M.C., Sandhurst, on 16th and 17th May.

Sergeant W. Deeks writes very cheerfully from Sierra Leone, where he seems to have quite settled down: Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays off; plenty of obedient natives; good pay and allowances; excellent shooting close by. It certainly sounds all right.

We are glad to hear that:—

Mr. E. Osborne has obtained a good billet at the Paper Mills at Sittingbourne.

The 2nd Battalion has obtained the services of two ex-Buffs in their Regimental Institutes.

Mr. A. Smith has been taken on the staff at the Crown Hotel at Canterbury.

Mr. Crick has obtained a good permanent appointment at a school at Broadstairs.

The Secretary of the Past and Present Association has heard of the following vacancies:—

Temporary man cook for camp in August and September.

House parlour-man and gardener.

Butler-valet.

Married couple, butler and cook-general.

A cook, widow of an ex-Buff preferred (one young child no objection).

Married Couple as Steward and Cook, East Kent Club, Canterbury.

It has been suggested that a Buff Club for all ranks, past and present, should be opened in Canterbury.

With so many Buffs in the neighbourhood, such an innovation might be a great success—an Officers' Mess, a Sergeants' Mess, a Corporals' Mess, and a Canteen, why not?—all profits to the Benevolent Fund.

The following have notified their intention of being present at re-unions as under:—

Major Hardy.....	All the re-unions.
Lt. C. J. Wood	Dinner on August 2nd.
Maj. G. A. E. Chapman ..	All re-unions.
Mr. E. S. Port.....	Dinner on August 2nd.
Lt. R. M. Webster ..	Past v. Present Cricket Match and the Annual Dinner.
Lt. J. E. King.....	The Regimental Golf Meeting.

Overseas Settlement.

AGREEMENTS which have been made between the British Government and the Canadian Government under the Empire Settlement Act, provide for the grant of assisted passages to persons going to work upon the land in Canada provided that they are nominated by friends or relatives in Canada, or by the Canadian Department of Immigration and Colonization in London and are accepted as suitable for farm work in Canada. Persons approved under this scheme

receive a loan of their passage money and rail fare in Canada, where necessary, with free transportation for any children under 17 years of age.

Under the Soldier Settlement Act of Canada, ex-soldiers who served overseas during the Great War can obtain a loan from the Canadian Government towards the purchase of land from the Board and equipping such land for farming purposes, up to an amount equal to 80 per cent. of the cost, provided they are considered qualified by the Soldier Settlement Board, and possess the necessary 20 per cent. capital of their own.

In addition, every province in the Dominion is in need of men for farm work at current wages, with board and lodging. The Superintendent of Emigration for Canada is in a position to guarantee work of this kind to all suitable and fit and willing workers who, after a few years' experience in Canada, will gain increased wages according to their experience, and may expect to become farmers in their own right by renting a farm, taking up a free homestead, or purchasing land.

There is probably no other career to which a man can so easily adapt himself as farming, or in which he can so readily become his own master, at the same time providing profitable and healthy employment for the young and growing members of his household. There are thousands of successful farmers in Canada to-day who began life there with nothing but willing hands, and each year the number is increasing. For example, the acreage in field crops in Canada has almost trebled since 1900, nearly 37,500,000 acres of new land having been brought into cultivation in that period.

Any Canadian Government Office throughout the British Isles will give full details: and, as most of the farmers in Canada commence as farm workers, the opportunities in the Dominion to become one's own landlord and a farmer, able to support himself and his family, are very numerous.

Everyone should have some experience before sailing to Canada, at least to the extent of knowing that he finds himself suited to agricultural work. This can be acquired either with a working farmer, or at some institution equipped for the purpose. For serving soldiers, the Army Vocational Courses in Agriculture should prove most useful.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, 62-65, Charing Cross, London, S.W. 1., and the Canadian National Railways, 17-19, Cockspur Street, London, S.W. 1., also have colonisation schemes suited to the needs of discharged officers and men.

Enquiries may be addressed to any of the following, or to the undersigned:—

Canadian Government Emigration Agent,—

48, Lord Street, Liverpool.
139 Corporation Street, Birmingham.
52 Baldwin Street, Bristol.
Canada Chambers, Museum Street, York.
Market Place, Peterborough.
54 Castle Street, Carlisle.
107 Hope Street, Glasgow.
116 Union Street, Aberdeen.
44, Dawson Street, Dublin.
15, 17, 19, Victoria Street, Belfast.
310 High Street, Bangor.
8 Canute Road, Southampton.
35 Church Street, Inverness.

J. OBED SMITH, *Superintendent of Emigration for Canada,*

1 Regent Street, London, S.W. 1.

Colonels of the Buffs.

No. 28. Major-General Berkeley Drummond.

Colonel of the Buffs, 1857—1860.

BERKELEY Drummond was born in 1797 and was brother of Charles Drummond, the banker, a branch of the ancient family of which Lord Strathallan is the head. On 5th March, 1812, he was gazetted ensign in the Scots Fusilier Guards, then called the 3rd Guards, and to-day known as the Royal Scots Fusiliers. With them he was present at the campaign of 1814 in Holland, including the storming of Bergen-op-Zoom; the following year he fought at Quatre Bras and Waterloo. He was promoted colonel on the 23rd November, 1841 and major-general on the 11th November ten years later. He was one of the Grooms-in-Waiting to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. General Drummond was appointed Colonel of the Buffs on 12th December, 1857 and died at Eaglehurst, his seat in Hampshire, on 3rd May, 1860.

A few months before General Drummond's appointment to the Buffs, Major F. F. Maude was promoted lieutenant-colonel on 14th August, 1857 and ordered to Limerick where he raised the 2nd Battalion. From Ireland, the 2nd Battalion proceeded, in December, 1857, to Canterbury and thence, in April, 1858, to Malta.

In the meantime, the 1st Battalion remained in Corfu until July, 1858, when they furnished detachments to the islands of Zante, Cerigo and Ithaca, with headquarters in Cephalonia; but after a few months they were concentrated at Corfu and embarked on 22nd November, 1858, for service in India, under command of Lieut.-Colonel Ambrose. They proceeded by rail through Egypt, re-embarked at Suez and landed at Calcutta on 29th December—the sixteenth anniversary of the battle of Punniar. In September, 1859, they concentrated at Fort William (Calcutta) for the purpose of forming part of the China expedition. After some delay, 1,011 of all ranks eventually embarked for China. During their few months stay in India, two officers and twenty-one men died of disease.

F.W.T.

Sandhurst Memorial.

THE committee is still £12 short of the £100 required to put up a panel in the chapel at Sandhurst, to the memory of officers of the Buffs, one-time cadets who lost their lives in the Great War.

It is earnestly hoped that past and present officers, who have not already subscribed, and the next-of-kin of officers who lost their lives, will contribute towards this memorial and so enable the committee to hand over the whole amount in the near future. The names of officers whose names will appear on the panel, together with a photograph of the enlarged chapel, were given in *The Dragon* for October, 1923.

Cheques, not exceeding two guineas, should be made payable to the Sandhurst Memorial and forwarded to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, Depot the Buffs, Canterbury.

Subscriptions have been received during the past month from the following:—

Mrs. Hasler; Mrs. Ingouville-Williams.

Can You Write ?

We are always pleased to consider articles, humorous sketches, and drawings. No article should exceed 800 words, and, if you love us dearly as we hope you do, do please write on one side of the paper only, and leave a good space between every line.

Naval Manœuvres—March, 1924.

THE *May Dragon* expressed a wish that one of those who went down to the sea in ships should relate his experiences, but this wish was not complied with and the matter is regretted—a term used alike in the Army and Navy. Anyhow, a few officers did become nautical for ten days and they were very glad, because otherwise they might not have enjoyed their trip as much as they did.

Leaving Gibraltar in the drizzling rain, the fleet set sail, and, though the wind was contrary, contrived to reach their various pre-arranged stations stretching across the Mediterranean from Africa to France. It was a wonderful sight to see the battleships of the Atlantic Fleet seemingly motionless on the water while the waves rushed past, and in the background the snow capped mountains of Southern Spain.

There was much to see, and everybody was always very willing to show you just their little bit of the ship, be it guns, torpedoes, or the chart room. The days quickly passed with all the spare time filled in with Ma Jongg, or the more serious Bridge.

One morning we were all up betimes to see the sun rise, and as we got on deck we found the sea covered with ships—all shapes, sizes and descriptions—where they had all come from one could never think, guns swinging round in circles, submarines suddenly appearing on one side, and torpedoes on the other. So this was naval war, with aeroplanes above, endeavouring to dispel the smoke-screen below, with destroyers dashing hither and thither, like hosts of locusts. So different to our manoeuvres, when you hardly see the enemy till you charge them, or the bugle blows *cease fire*. (*Stop. Ed.*)

The battle ended early—who won? Winston Churchill is said to have stated that the side with the senior admiral always wins at Naval manoeuvres. So it was in this case. By now, the weather was fine and warm, and the combined Atlantic and Mediterranean fleets, nearly a hundred ships, steamed into the natural harbour of Pollensa Bay in the Balearic islands. No sooner were anchors dropped, than a continual round of social gaities commenced, and continued for four days and inter-fleet regattas, concerts, football matches, boxing shows and evening at homes—where the officers from each fleet could meet together and discuss old times. To quote one example, the “at home” on the *Iron Duke* it was said there were eight-hundred officers present, some gathering!! Except for the last day, the weather was delightful, so that the army officers who were so kindly invited to everything could enjoy it, without having to think of a bad passage home in a launch or motor-boat.

Most officers found they needed exercise and managed to get ashore to explore the land; some even reached the other end of the island of Majorica, and found a delightful town called Palma where there is a large English colony, including at least one Buff, Captain R. G. Tamton, late of the 4th Battalion, who kindly showed us round the several sights of the City.

On leaving Pollensa there were more manoeuvres and on the return to the rainy Rock much firing of large guns. On return, we found it had rained in Gibraltar every day we had been away, so we had been lucky in every way.

The following Officers participated in the outing:—Lieut.-Colonel Lucas and Lieut. Wood in the *Valiant*; Lieut. Oliver in the *Royal Sovereign*; Lieut. Marshall in the *Cambrian* and Lieut. Rose in the *Caledon*.

C. J. W.

The Bands of the British Army.

By R. MAURICE HILL.

ONE of the most remarkable features of the British Empire Exhibition has been the playing of the massed band, one thousand strong, drawn from the whole of the eighty-four different regiments now serving at home, or with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine. In view of the widespread interest aroused by this historic event, some notes on the history of our regimental bands (of which our Army is so justly proud) may prove of interest.

From the very earliest times, the fighting men of various nations have been inspired to doughty deeds by the strains of various kinds of music, so that many people will no doubt be surprised to learn that it was not until 1747 the first drum and fife band was officially "brought on the strength"—the "Green Howards" (19th Foot) being the pioneers in introducing this. All infantry regiments (except the Light Infantry and Rifle Corps) have now followed their example. The "Light Bobs" and "Greenjackets" march to the strains of a bugle band instead of drums and fifes. The Royal Artillery also had a drum and fife band, until 1856. Scottish regiments use the bagpipes in lieu of drums and fifes (with the exception of the Scots Guards, who have both).

In 1780 the Guards hired eight civilian musicians to play in front of the King's Guard, on its way to and from St. James' Palace. These men (being civilians) were not amenable to discipline, and as they were at liberty to play or not, just as they chose, the Duke of York ordered Music-Master Eley to engage a dozen German musicians, who were to be properly attested as soldiers in the Coldstream Guards. This was the first military band, of "soldier-musicians," as we understand the term to-day. In a few years time the Germans were replaced by British subjects.

About the beginning of the nineteenth century Negro cymbal players were introduced into the Guards' bands. One of these men, when accosted in the Strand by a jocular cockney, who asked "Well, Blackie, what news from the devil?" promptly knocked down the enquirer, saying "He send you dat! How you like it?" These black musicians gradually disappeared, the last one ("Francis" of the Grenadiers, who sported a massive silver collar) dying in 1838.

Once the Coldstream Guards had set the fashion, other regiments were quick to follow it, so that in the Inspection Return of the 1st Battalion of the First Foot ("The Royal Scots") for 1800, we find the complaint—"Too large a band of musick." (*sic*).

Military bands at home during the Great War did yeoman service in raising recruits, while the services of the various divisional and regimental bands overseas, in assisting to keep up the "morale" and "esprit-de-corps" of the troops when out of the line were of great value.

To the band of the 10th (Yeomanry) Battalion The Buffs belong the distinction of being the last band to actually play a unit right into action. On the 8th of November, 1918, the 10th Buffs entered Faubourg-de-Lille, Tournai, in fine style, with the band playing at their head, when the procession was brought to a sudden stop by an outburst of machine gun fire. Contrary to information received, the Germans had not completed their evacuation, and the triumphal entry had to be postponed until the enemy's rearguard were driven out.

Several of our regimental bands possess trophies gained on the field of battle—for example, the 5th (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, who captured the drum-major's staff of the 66th French Infantry Regiment at Salamanca, which is still carried in front of their band on special parades.

At Arroyo-dos-Molinos, during the Peninsular War, the British 34th Foot (now 1st Battalion The Border Regiment, stationed at Aden) cut off and captured the whole of the French 34th, whose brass drums and drum-major's staff are still the most cherished possessions of the Cumberland and Westmoreland regiments. Years afterwards, during the Crimean War, the 34th Regiments of Great Britain and France met again—this time as allies in the trenches before Sebastopol, and commenced to fraternize. The captured drums were then still in every-day use, and, fearing their origin might become known to the French, and become a cause of trouble, the Colonel of the Borders had the captured drums whitewashed until they could be replaced by ordinary "army issue" drums, and shipped back to the Depot in England for safe keeping.

Every year at midnight on the 22nd of October (the anniversary of the battle) the Border drummers assemble to beat the old French drums, behind which some of Napoleon's veterans once stepped out so proudly, whilst the youngest drummer of the regiment twirls the drum-major's staff.

The Northumberland Fusiliers ("The Fighting Fifth") also took a French drum-major's staff in the Peninsular War, but had the misfortune to lose it again during the Indian Mutiny.

Another drum-major's staff with a history behind it is that of the old 39th Foot (now 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment). This was presented to them by the Nawab of Arcot as a mark of esteem for their gallantry at the Battle of Plassey, when Clive was laying the foundations of our Indian Empire.

A curious old custom in the 12th Royal Lancers was the playing of five hymns by the band at tattoo, until August, 1916. If legend is to be believed, the origin of this was in 1812, when some of the "Supple Twelfth" commandeered one hundred and four bottles of wine from the cellar of a Spanish monastery. In consequence of this, the Duke of Wellington imposed the playing of the evening hymns as a penance—one year for each bottle. Another version is that the Pope presented the hymns to the Regiment, when they were serving in the Papal States, about 1797. (*Copyright*).

A Recruiting Song.

STALWART sons of Men of Kent

Sorely are you needed,
From your County Regiment
Many have been weeded,
Leave the farms and leave the ploughs,
Leave the nets and trawling,
Leave the woods of tangled boughs—
Hear The Buffs a-calling!

Know ye how your sires of old
Fought for England's glory?
On our Colours, blazed in gold,
You may read the story.
Gallant Buffs and Men of Kent
Wrought an honour holy;
O ye sons of brave descent,
'Tis your birthright solely!

From Ramsgate to Horsmonden,
Sheerness down to Dover,
Sounds the call for sturdy men
All the County over.
Leave the villages and towns,
Leave the hamlets sprawling,
Leave the marshes, leave the Downs—
Hear The Buffs a-calling!

Some Reminiscences (Continued).

BY COLONEL R. S. M. MOODY, C.B., LATE THE BUFFS.

THE Battalion was somewhat divided at our new station, two companies going to Penang, one to Malacca and one, though in Singapore, was at Fort Canning, close to the town with a battery of artillery. The other four, with Head-Quarters, were at the beautiful Tanglin Barracks about four miles out. The adjective beautiful is surely seldom used to qualify the noun barracks, but these were really fine bungalows in pleasant surroundings, the officers' mess and quarters all under one roof, being exceptionally handsome and comfortable.

Here we found the 74th Highlanders and were doubled up with them for some days till they embarked. South Africa sunburns a man's face more than any country in the world and the moist heat of Singapore has an exactly contrary effect and it was curious to contrast the white faced Scotchmen and brick-red Buffs as they fraternised.

I believe troops in the Straits Settlements now wear shorts for training, etc., but in 1879-80, white jackets and helmets were the only concession made to the equator, which imaginary line is within swimming distance of Singapore's beach, and officers and men were dressed, below the waist, exactly as in England.

The mode of life of course differed widely from what most of us had previously experienced and Chinamen intruded themselves upon our notice everywhere, much more so than the Malays who are of course the aboriginal inhabitants of the island. This was probably because all cooks, servants, hangers on and the best tradesmen were of celestial origin, and only our grooms Malay. Some of the tradesmen were very good, notably Chong Fee Chee Chong and Co., whose silken materials were a marvel. They made me some silk pyjamas which never wore out and I would be using them now had they not gradually disappeared in the wash and I was wearing their white duck trousers twenty years later on. Even if this firm still exists they are not likely to read *The Dragon* so this unsolicited testimonial is not written in the hopes of receiving a *bucksheesh* length of silk.

Most of the Chinese were tremendous gamblers and played till they lost their last dollar, when they went off and drowned themselves. The set of the tide was such that all corpses collected into one corner of the harbour and it was from here that the most magnificent prawns were taken. Singapore curried prawns is the best food I know and most of us breakfasted on this dish every morning. My sister and her son visited the island shortly before the great war and I impressed on them the advisability of insisting on this delicacy with its "usual trimmings." The officers were somewhat annoyed one morning to find that one unsuccessful player had selected their swimming bath instead of the sea to finish his career in.

The Fort Canning detachment was often relieved, and I spent some time there with C Company, which suited me very well, because it was near the harbour and I was very intimate with the fleet. *H.M.S. Egeria* was commanded by a relative of my mother's, her first Lieut. was Jacky Walcott from the village next to that which sheltered my parents, and she was navigated by my very good friend and first cousin, Lieutenant Thomas B. Moody, so I was often on board and used to go on short trips on the *Egeria*.

My cousin was a cricket enthusiast and was always urging me to play. "Look here" said he one day; "Come down every afternoon and I will bowl to you. Then, later, mug up your company and I will play you with my ship." "Pooh" said I "I'll play you to-morrow," and so it happened that the ground was secured and a match arranged for the next Saturday and I went off to consult with Derby the Colour-Sgt. for the *Egeria* was fairly hot stuff, T. B. Moody and the carpenter being both a bit beyond our form. The first thing to do was to make love to the doctor and get Carter temporarily out of hospital, and then to tackle the problem of how to keep Evans sober. Now this man, report said, had been a professional cricketer, anyhow he had enlisted abnormally late in life and was a real bowler. Unfortunately, he was at this time so pertinaciously celebrating his arrival in Singapore that the C.O. had told him that if he came before him again he should do cells to break the continuity so to speak. The night before the match I was driving myself out to the barracks from the town, when, a very few minutes before last post, I caught up Evans yawning about the road which was proving too narrow for him. I confess it, I forgot all about the terms of my commission and that I was to "well discipline in arms" peccant sportsmen of this sort. I hauled the erring one up beside me and, rattling him past the guard, drove him to C Company bungalow and handed him over to two of the eleven to be taken care of; the next day he aided materially in a mighty victory and the pride of Cousin Thomas experienced a fall. Poor sick Carter knocked the ship carpenter's bowling all over the place and I made runs myself.

Newnham-Davis and Somerset were responsible for an outbreak of theatricals and some of the shows were perhaps ambitious. I remember being the warrior lover to the beautiful high born maiden, Private Morgan, a young bandsman, in a melodrama called "Old St. Paul's or the 13th Chime" and visiting her in a darksome dungeon where she was incarcerated by the machinations of the wicked abbot. "History repeats itself" and a day or two afterwards, being then at Fort Canning, I got a telegram ordering me to attend at the police cells to watch the case against some bandsmen accused of stealing a Chinaman's pig. Here, among others, I found Morgan. "Well" I remarked, "What are you in for this time?" I was able to prevent the offence being entered as theft, it being merely a case of "Satan finding some mischief still for idle hands to do," and a boyish attempt at the noble sport of pig-sticking.

I imagine Singapore might prove a bit slow after the novelty had worn off. There was no polo in those days. There were some white people, but society, as a rule, was of many shades "between a yaller and a gingercake" and the heat was monotonous. Personally, I was there for only four months for when some of the officers began to return from leave, I was granted a nine month's holiday. I could not have gone home had it not been for the officers of the *Egeria*, after counting my half-pence, applying for an indulgence passage on *H.M. Troopship Tyne* and being told there was no room, I discovered that the purser of the ship was a friend of my cousin's and the others and at their request he wangled me a berth on board alright, and I bid farewell to the second battalion for nearly eleven years as it happened, though of course I met several individuals during that period.

The Past and Present Association, The Buffs.

Patron-in-Chief.

His Majesty Christian X., King of Denmark, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., Colonel-in-Chief of the Buffs.

Patrons.

The Marquess Camden, H.M. Lieutenant for the County of Kent.
Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, M.P.
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Sir Charles Jessel, Bart., M.A., J.P., D.L.
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London.
Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry H. F. Lennard, Bart., J.P., D.L.
The Rt. Hon. R. McNeill, Esq., P.C., M.P.
Mayor of Maidstone.
G. Marsham, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Ramsgate.
Mayor of Rochester.
Lieut.-Col. J. M. Rogers, D.S.O., J.P., D.L.
Lieut.-Col. Lord Sackville, J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Sandwich.
Colonel Sir Henry Steatfield, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.
Major Lord Teynham, J.P., D.L.
Mayor of Tunbridge Wells.
Brig.-Gen. W. Tylden, J.P.
Major G. C. Wheeler, C.B.E., M.P., J.P., D.L.

President.

General the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, P.C., G.C.B., K.C.V.O., Colonel of the Buffs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman.

Brigadier-General E. H. Finch Hatton, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Vice-Chairman.

Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Eaton, O.B.E.

Members.

Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Power, D.S.O., commanding 1st Battalion.
Colonel J. Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding 2nd Battalion.
Lieut.-Colonel E. B. Burns, commanding 4th Battalion.
Major G. Lee, D.S.O., M.C., commanding Depot the Buffs.
Major F. W. Tomlinson, late the Buffs.
Captain H. H. C. Baird, D.S.O., late the Buffs.

Secretary and Treasurer.

Colonel H. Findlay, C.B.E., late the Buffs.

Aims and Objects.

The aims and objects of the Past and Present Association, the Buffs, to which General the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Paget and The Marquess Camden refer, are as follows:—

- (1) To maintain and promote esprit de corps.
- (2) To help old Buffs to obtain employment.
- (3) To give financial assistance to old Buffs, and to their widows and children, who, through no fault of their own, may be in distressed circumstances.
- (4) To administer the Buffs' Cottage Homes, and ultimately to endow them.

- (5) To establish a Regimental Enquiry Bureau for the assistance of members seeking advice as regards pay, pensions, allowances, medals, historical records, etc.
- (6) To ensure that all regimental memorials are kept in proper repair.
- (7) To publish monthly the regimental paper—*The Dragon*.
- (8) To arrange for the continuation of the Historical Records of the Buffs.
- (9) To arrange an annual dinner, and such other re-unions as may be from time to time decided on.

Membership.

(a) Full Members.

The Association shall be open for full membership to all ranks of any battalion which bears or has borne the title The Buffs.

(b) Associate Members.

Any ladies and gentlemen interested in the regiment who subscribe to the funds of the Association, may become associate members.

(c) Honorary Members.

All ranks of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and the 198th Canadian Buffs shall be honorary members of the Association.

(d) Life Members.

The status of those already enrolled as life members shall in no way be disturbed. From 1st October, 1923, no further life members will be elected.

Special Announcement.

The Executive Committee make an earnest appeal to all who are serving, or have served in The Buffs, or who in other ways are interested in the Regiment for the active support in increasing the number of Full and Associate Members; in making the Aims and Objects generally known; in finding

employment; in subscribing to the Benevolent Fund; and in furthering the interests of the Association in every possible way. May we send you a supply of the Handbook of The Association for distribution among your friends?

The Past and Present Association.

EXHIBITION.

IT has now been definitely decided to hold the Buffs' Exhibition during the august cricket week. The Queen's Hall, St. George's Gate, has been selected, and the Proprietress has been most generous regarding terms.

The exhibition will be open from Saturday, August 2nd until the Saturday the 9th.

Many offers have been received to loan exhibits and it is hoped some more may still be forthcoming. It is hoped that every Buff in Canterbury will visit the exhibition and see that all his friends and acquaintances do so also; all profits will be credited to The Benevolent Fund.

ASSOCIATION BADGES.

Several hundred of the new badges have already been issued. All members who have not paid their subscriptions for this year (5/- officers, 2/6 other ranks), should do so at once, when the new badge will be forwarded without delay.

HANDBOOK.

Six-thousand copies of the Handbook of the Association have been issued. A further thousand copies are due from the printers in the course of the next few days.

In the event of any Buff not having received a copy, the Committee hope that the omission will be overlooked, but that the person or persons concerned will notify The Secretary so that the error can be immediately remedied.

DONATIONS.

The following additional list of donations and subscriptions is published for information—also, as a result of the issue of the handbook, a number of new members and associates have been obtained and the circulation of *The Dragon* has been considerably increased.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	75	11	0
G. K. Anderson, Esq.	1	1	0
Mr. A. Andrews	1	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Borton	2	2	0
Miss Ethel Bromhead	1	1	0
A. Churchill, Esq.	0	10	0
Cavalry Depot, Canterbury	2	10	0
John Druce, Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs. Gibbs and Sons	0	5	0
J. J. Knight, Esq.	1	1	0
A. Latter, Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. B. Martin	1	0	0
Lieut. W. N. Neve	0	5	0
E. Osborne, Esq.	1	1	0
Lieut. C. Parkenson	0	16	0
Sidney H. Pitt, Esq.	0	18	0
Captain J. G. Smith	1	1	0
Miss E. Stainton	5	0	0
J. W. H. Townbee, Esq.	2	0	0
E. R. Whelan, Esq.	0	4	6
Miss D. White	1	0	0

The issue of the handbook, in addition to the above results, has also largely increased the applications for assistance. The Committee therefore hope, that all who can, will assist quickly, in order that the influx of appeals may be adequately dealt with.

RE-UNIONS.

Posters advertising the re-unions for the year have been issued to Area Representatives, who are arranging for them to be placed in good positions throughout their respective areas.

DRAGON CLUB DINNER.

All arrangements are now complete for The Dragon Club Dinner which is to be held at The Trocadero on Wednesday, June 18th. The price for the dinner, including Wines, etc., has been fixed at:—for members

whose subscriptions have been received £1, for others, £1 17s. 6d. The Committee earnestly request that all those intending to be present, will notify the Secretary as soon as possible.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The following assistance has been rendered to ex-Buffs and their dependents since last report:—

	£	s.	d.
1924.			
April 8.			
Grant to help man get clothing out of pawn, on taking up work	1	0	0
Grant to pay man's fare, to the North where he is promised work	2	0	0
Grant to help man out of work, family sick	3	0	0
Grant to pay expenses for man, in order that he may take up work	1	0	0
Grant to help man out of work	0	10	6
Grant to help man out of work, to buy clothes, etc.	2	0	0
Grant to help man out of work, destitute	2	0	0
Grant to buy tools to help man take up gardening on his own account	5	0	0
Grant to assist man out of work no one in family bringing anything in	1	0	0
Grant to help man until he gets work	1	0	0
Grant to assist man to get bed linen, he has only a small pension	2	0	0
Grant to assist man out of work	0	10	0
Payment for work done at the Depot	0	5	0
May 2.			
Grant to help man pay expenses of wife's illness	2	0	0
Grant to assist man until he obtains work	1	10	0
Grant to help man while looking for work	1	0	0
Grant to assist man out of work and in poor health	1	0	0
Payment for work done in the Depot	1	0	0
Loan to assist man with a large family who is out of work, to pay off some debts	6	12	4
Grant to assist man until he gets employment	1	10	0
Grant to assist old man who is in difficulties	2	10	0
Grant to assist old man who is in bad health	1	0	0
Grant to help man suffering from consumption for essential repairs to his home	3	0	0
Grant to help man pay medical treatment and buy a few clothes	5	0	0
Grant to assist man until he obtains a job	2	0	0
Grant to help man who has been thrown out of work, and only has a small pension to live on	4	0	0
Grant to assist man to send his wife who has been ill, away	1	15	0
Business destroyed by fire, temporary loan pending settlement by insurance company (repaid within a week)	20	0	0
Grant to assist man out of employment	1	0	0
Grant to help man who is out of a job	1	0	0
Grant to assist man, he has got a job to go to, and requires assistance for first week	1	0	0
Grant to help man who is destitute	2	0	0
Grant to help man pay his railway fare to where he is promised work	0	10	0
Grant to help man who is destitute	1	0	0
Grant to help man pay off a few debts incurred during his child's illness	1	4	11
Grant to help man pay his railway fare to take up a job	1	10	0
Grant to assist man until he obtains a job	1	0	0
Grant to assist man out of employment, expecting to take up employment shortly	2	0	0
Grant to assist man until he gets work, fruit picking	1	10	0

In addition to the above grants and loans, work has been found for three old Buffs.

The Committee are hopeful of obtaining at an early date temporary employment for about 100 unskilled labourers in Canterbury and in the near future, permanent employment for a number of Commissionaires. Full particulars of these vacancies if they materialize, will be circulated as soon as possible; in the meantime, applicants should register their names in writing forthwith with The Secretary of the Association:—

The Committee would inform all applicants for assistance, that it is most advisable for them to produce at the time of tendering their applications, either in person or in writing, their discharge papers. The non-production of these valuable documents is liable to cause delay, which might otherwise be avoided.

On Dragons.

TRADITION AND HERALDRY.

ON St. George's Day it may not be altogether inappropriate to refer to his Dragon and discuss the creature's kinsfolk of the *genus draco*. Some scholars tell us that St. George's Dragon, so far from being a squamaceous, and doubtless sulphur-coloured, monster belching infernal fire and mephitic smoke, never had any real existence, and if not entirely a myth, together with his canonized conqueror, was at best only an incorporeal allegory representative, for purposes of ecclesiastical art, of the iniquity of the pagan and persecuting Roman Empire. Other scholars, less iconoclastic and perhaps more curious into the roots of legend, affirm that St. George and his Dragon are both of them older than the Faith for which our gallant Patron died, and that the Saint himself provides a rare example of the conversion to Christianity of a Pagan Hero, and one, moreover, in whose veins flowed the ichor of the Olympians.

Local tradition in Palestine insists that the remains of the Sea Monster which sought to devour Andromeda may yet be seen encumbering the exiguous port of Jaffa. The creature was petrified by Perseus, a son of Zeus, who revealed the Gorgon's head to its astounded gaze in order to save the chained Princess. It thus became a reef of rock, and when Perseus had grown weary of dwelling on Olympus and came down to earth once more in order to be baptized a Christian and became St. George his old adversary was again remembered. So runs one story.

Be it, however, as it may, it is interesting to remember that when our own King Richard went a-crusading against the knightly Saladin and fought his way to Ludd, in Palestine, where they show St. George's tomb, he took with him his Dragon Standard, and that very soon after the Dragon had thus paid homage at the famous shrine his former conqueror came to be proclaimed the Patron Saint of England. Some say, indeed, that King Richard's Dragon was not St. George's, but the old Dragon of Wessex, that Nordic beast which fought for the House of Cerdic against the Raven of the Danes and won his last victory for the Saxons against the Land Ravager of King Harold Hardraade at Stamford Brig before he bowed himself, old and only half-converted heathen creature that he was, before Duke William's consecrated gonfalon of St. Peter at Senlac.

There is a theory, possibly of Christian origin, that a Dragon is of necessity maleficent to man, a thing of terror. But this is not universal. Some dragons were useful and kindly beasts, and when the Emperors of China were wearied of the cares of this world they gratefully "ascended upon the Dragon" and were no more seen of men. Their Dragon was blue, and although he no longer writhes upon the stamps of a Republican China, his portrait appears in English heraldry as a supporter of the shields of Lord Gough and Sir Bruce Hart to remind us of what their fathers did in far Cathay.

WESSEX AND OTHER DRAGONS.

In England, too, we have no real fear, but rather a sort of tolerant affection for dragons. If the Dragon of Wessex no longer leads us to battle, at least as the Green Dragon he presides over countless grateful inns and legend is full of the exploits of his kinsmen. Did not Uther Pendragon hang up a golden Dragon in a church, and was not a ramping Draig Goch displayed upon the banner of Owen Glendower? A Dragon, of the wyvern species, was the cognizance of the House of Lancaster, sprung from King Henry

III., who last knowingly displayed the Dragon of Wessex as King of England, and King Edward IV. used a Black Dragon as the badge of his inherited Earldom of Ulster.

When King Henry VII. found the Crown of England under a thorn bush on Bosworth Field, a Red Dragon standing on a green mount displayed upon a white banner floated above his head, and heralds have exercised their learning in discussions of the beast's identity. Some hold that it was Welsh, and that Rouge Dragon, who lives and moves and has his being in the Heralds' College in Queen Victoria Street, is merely Owen Glendower's, or Cadwallader's, Draig Goch diplomatically translated into French in order to make him more acceptable to the English, who have ever been more tolerant of French fashions than of Welsh. Others suggest that King Henry Tudor set no great store on his Cymric blood and used the Dragon to show that he was heir of Lancaster and of the "right king-kin" of England, or, in other words, that the Dragon on Bosworth Field was really the Dragon of Wessex.

It may be noticed, however, that when the Prince of Wales was invested with his Principality, "In the face of the Sun and in the Eye of Light," according to the Druidic formula at Carnarvon in 1911, perceptive Welshmen became enthusiastically excited when it was seen that Sir Watkin Wynn, who was the Prince's Standard Bearer, bore a Red Dragon on a plain white field. It was argued that as no green mount appeared, this was really Owen Glendower's Dragon come at long last to enter impregnable Carnarvon in peaceful triumph, and not King Henry Tudor's possibly Lancastrian and Sassenach Dragon from Wessex—a proper mark of Welsh nationality, not a tactless badge of English, though long distant, conquest. If King Henry VII. was not quite sure whose Dragon he bore as a supporter to his shield, his grand-daughter Elizabeth had no doubts, and made her Dragon gold, as Owen Glendower's had been, by repute, of a ruddy reddish gold in colour. King James, however, brought south his own Scottish Unicorn, and there was thereafter no room for either a West Saxon or a Welsh Dragon to support the Royal shield, as the Norman-English Lion and the Scottish Unicorn have since then had pride of place.

The Times.

A Villanelle.

SPRING: THE REPROBATE!

With apologies to E.C.F. in The Dragon of May.

THAT pen of mine should agitate
To charm mine eyes with joyful lay,
That I should love a reprobate!

The Shrivell'd buds inviolate,
That Fancy sees in full display,
That pen of mine should agitate!

The clouds refuse to abdicate
They fear, through Sun's enchanting ray,
That I should love a reprobate!

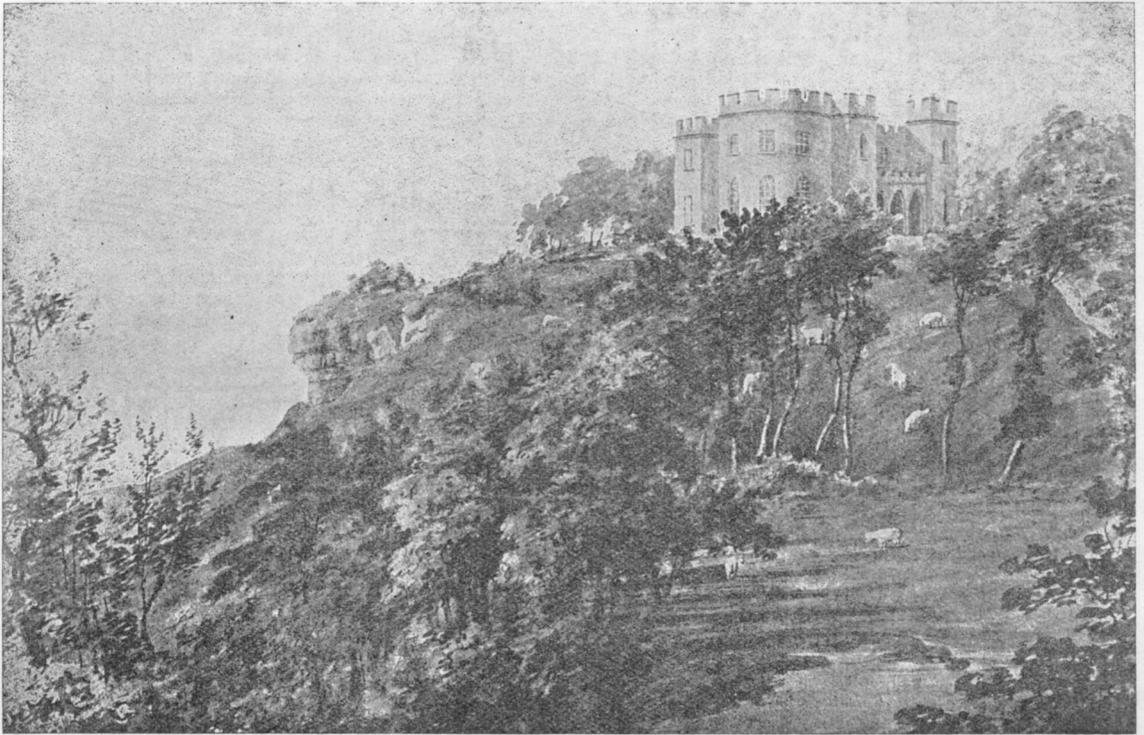
The wild-fowl calling to its mate
Amidst a sticky mess of clay,
That pen of mine should agitate!

A beauty all too inchoate
Beguiles me o'er its long delay
That I should love a reprobate!

On summer's skies I ruminate,
And wonder if they will essay
That pen of mine should agitate
That I should love a reprobate!

H.

Pennsylvania Castle, Portland.



Pennsylvania Castle, Portland.

THIS castellated mansion was erected at the suggestion of King George III. It is said that the King pointed out the picturesque possibilities of the site and offered John Penn, afterwards the Governor of Portland, a grant of some of the land thereabouts, and that Penn regarded the royal suggestion as a command. There was, however, a political motive, too. These were the days of the Napoleonic wars, and Penn's special mission at Pennsylvania Castle was to watch the English Channel and receive information from sea-captains and others who acted as secret service agents as to the movements of the French ships.

The architect of the mansion was James Wyatt, and the building was completed about the year 1800, when it was formally opened by the King's daughter, Princess Elizabeth. Many family portraits, manuscripts, books, and other relics of the famous Quaker, William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., were brought from Stoke Park, Bucks., to the new Castle named after the American State, where they remained until recent years. The tower, containing the circular dining room, and the circular boudoir over it, commanding magnificent and wide sea views, is one of the most attractive features of the house. John Penn planted a large number of trees in the grounds, which give the building surrounded by them a peculiar charm. He introduced the red deer into the Island, and was intensely proud of watching them browse in his miniature park.

Within the imitation-Tudor entrance gateway is a ruin, a crenellated Lodge, lit with a number of very narrow lancet windows; here his Swedish friend, Baron Gustavus Nolcken, lived and died. Penn also crenellated a Jacobean cottage, some distance from the Castle, and converted it into a billiard room. Also, within the grounds is an old and curious sundial, the dial itself being incised on an inverted anchor. In the

cliff below the Castle, Penn built a large oval-shaped bath; his valet had to fetch the sea-water from the Cove below. But the bath was built in "Parish Land," and at the little local parliament, he was fined half-a-crown a year by the islanders as an encroachment rent. Penn objected to pay it and gave up using the bath; it still exists, but in a decayed state.

John Penn was the grandson of the famous Quaker and the great-grandson of Admiral Sir William Penn (who, curiously enough, had fought the Dutch off Portland in 1653) and was sometime Member of Parliament for Weymouth. His mother, to whom he was devotedly attached, was Lady Juliana Fermor, one of the beautiful daughters of the first Earl of Pomfret, who was frequently with Queen Charlotte at Weymouth; and John Penn's first acquaintance with Portland and his resolve to settle here were probably brought about while on a visit to his mother at Weymouth. But he himself never married; he had had an unfortunate attachment in early youth from which he did not recover, although he organised a Society which had for its object an improvement in the domestic life of married people.

Many royal and notable personages, including George III., Queen Charlotte, and their children, visited Pennsylvania Castle at the beginning of the 19th century; and Penn, who was an intellectual man (some of his poems, plays, and pamphlets were published) was also in a small way a patron of art and literature; at Cambridge he had obtained the degrees of M.A., and LL.D.

He lived about two years after leaving Portland, and died at the age of 74 at his Buckinghamshire home, Stoke Park, in the year 1834. There is a bust of John Penn in the Weymouth Guildhall.

HERBERT PENTIN.

ROUND & ABOUT

BY
THE TRAMP



WARMING UP. It is not about the weather that I would write. Too often before have my remarks been given the lie by the delightful variability of our Summer, as it is humorously called. No, I refer to the Season, that round of events which all the hard-working society people feel bound to complete before August gives them release, either on the moors or at Margate.

* * * * *

THE ROUMANIAN ROYAL VISIT. A good send-off to the grand spectacular events has been given by the visit of these popular personages. I had a view of them when they were returning from the exacting experience of receiving an address and a luncheon from the Corporation of the City of London. There is no doubt that Queen Marie, by reason of her association with England and her graciousness is a really popular favourite. Hundreds of city workers curtailed their brief luncheon intervals to catch a glimpse of the glittering procession. Pomp and circumstances obviously still has a strong hold on the public imagination. A landau containing frock-coated ministers, however eminent, would not interfere with my luncheon hour.

* * * * *

WEMBLEY. I must confess not to have been to the Great Exhibition yet, but I possess several friends who go there every Saturday in order to spend their week's earnings. From these enthusiasts, I am gradually learning all about it. There is no doubt that it is bigger and finer than any Exhibition. It ought to be absolutely finished by the end of the summer and those who like to see things in the making, can feast their eyes on the pavilions which various causes have kept from premature completion.

* * * * *

EATING AT WEMBLEY. There are innumerable palaces of gastronomy, but they vary in their prices according to position and interior decoration, I gather from my above-mentioned friends. Inadvertently one enthusiast entertained his mother-in-law to tea in the very best restaurant and so was unable to take the old lady on the Scenic Railway which he really had made up his mind to do. Her visitation was therefore considerably prolonged.

* * * * *

BELGIUM FOR A HOLIDAY. At Easter I fled from England taking advantage of excursion tickets and a couple of extra days' holiday: via Dover, where the sight of the old Citadel brought back memories of early days on the square and later days when the guns thundered the news of the German March offensive, and Ostend, with all its memories of St. George's Day, 1918. This vaunted watering place I knew in the days before 1914 when it was considered fashionable and rather haughty. It is trying to regain its air of the half-world and has very nearly obliterated all the scars for which the German occupation and our bombardments were responsible.

A TOWN OF HISTORY. But Bruges was our destination and we reached it through a few miles of the old familiar Flemish flatness, the little farmsteads, red-tiled and the long roads and canals with their lines of trees. Bruges is of course, the resort of tourists and at Easter it is pretty well crowded, but it is possible to enjoy the quiet and peace of this consistently beautiful city without rubbing shoulders overmuch with hustling and horn-rimmed Americans or one's own country people. Talking of the latter reminds me that most of the British tourists seem to have come from the Midlands or the North. London did not seem to send many; at least the dialects were not those of Brondesbury, Peckham or Putney, but rather of Wolverhampton, Wigan and Rochdale.

* * * * *

THE WAY TO ENJOY BRUGES. Not for me the hurrying round of visits to this and that "object of interest." A comfortable little breakfast in one's hotel in the region of nine a.m.; then a walk down the main thoroughfares, a little shopping; not souvenirs, but necessities such as Gold Flake, Capstan Navy Cut or Pepsodent. A seat in the Café in the Grande Place and a glass of Dubonnet and a *Brioche*. Then dejeuner about 12.30 and an easy ramble in the afternoon. It is possible to take steam-boats to Sluis, where we took on the Dutch ages ago in naval combat. I went half way; to Damme, a village of peace and quiet about the size of Vlamer-tinghe and once of great political and strategic importance, but my excursion ended there. Tea of almost English taste or chocolate of excellent quality may be had in the many spotlessly clean and inviting patisseries in Bruges and after dinner a little Café in the main square affords both refreshment and a view of the Brugeans taking the air with their families.

* * * * *

ANOTHER FLEMISH TOWN. One is constantly reminded in Bruges, by names and architectural styles, of the most famous Flemish Town of all, Ypres, which has lost all its antiquity except for its stark cloth-hall tower which stands withered amidst new pink houses. There was a time when Ypres was in its way as beautiful as Bruges and when the Yprians took their evening stroll and their *bocks* in the Grande Place. Some day they will do it again, but it will be years before the town loses its garden-city look.

* * * * *

THE BELFRY. Bruges has a Belfry. Every post-card shop tells you this a thousand times and the Belfry itself plays a chime strongly reminiscent of "the lass with a delicate air" every ten minutes in order to make sure that you do not miss its architectural beauty. Bruges is worth a visit and it can be done cheaply, but it is better not to go at holiday times because the boats and trains are not over comfortable then.

The 1st Battalion.

THE month opened with the usual bad weather and the sad farewells to all our good friends in the Atlantic Fleet, who sailed on April 2nd. We were very sorry to see them steaming away, and look forward to their return next season. With their departure, a gloom fell upon all of us, which was not dispelled by the prospect of the G.O.C.-in-C.'s annual inspection, which was due to take place on the 9th, but was put off until the 10th. However, fine weather started and our spirits rose with the glass, and I must say that sometimes the glass rose with the spirits, though none too often, after the previous month's entertainments had played havoc with the mess bills.

The Inspection went off very well indeed, and we all slept peacefully the following night, few, if any, hit the ceiling or damaged the carpet in the Orderly Room. His Excellency made a very fine speech to the regiment on Parade a few days after the inspection, in which he spoke in glowing terms of the Regiment's past and future.

We had the pleasure of seeing Dr. Whitehead Reid here for a week; he took some photographs of the inspection, and we should be glad if some of his friends at the Depot would pay him a call, to hustle the results out to us here!

HUNTING AND POLO.

The weather got steadily warmer and so brought the hunting to a close. We had one very good day on the 9th, the last day of the season, with a magnificent run. Paper chases took the place of hunting during the short interval while the polo ground got dry enough to play on. Everyone who could, was to be seen schooling ponies on the North Front and learning the noble art of hitting the ball. There are some 27 ponies owned by officers in the Battalion, which is a sign that the old standards are being maintained. When



"All we have to do in Gib?"—The Drums.

the season really gets going and all the ponies are fit and trained, as well as their owners, we hope to be able to play in all the tournaments.

Polo actually started on 29th of April and since then we have been hard at it, despite the sarcastic remarks of some of our so-called local experts.

TENNIS.

The tennis tournaments are now in full swing where the regiment is well represented and we eagerly await the results, full of hope, and an account of them from one of the competitors.

RACING.

Several of our horse coping officers have ridden or owned horses in the local race meetings this month, and great fun they were. Captain Vertue bought a horse out of a selling race the other day for £17, before, we think, he quite realized what had happened. He intended to ginger up the bidding, but got landed with the nag! We wish him luck when he runs her on Sunday next (10th May).

OTHER SPORTS.

Football, boxing, sports, and cross-country runs are trying hard to kill us all for the sake of the Harris Shield, which is being keenly contested this year. Lieut. Griffith has gone to some strange foreign place on leave. Major Hardy has unfortunately left us for good, he departed on the 6th and we gave him a farewell dinner on the 5th. There is no one who did not have a lump in his throat when he made a farewell speech to us in the mess. We are fortunate to have him living near the depot where he will still be in touch with the Regiment.

Captain Hart departed on 28th, and we are afraid we shall not see him for a couple of years, as he has been given a staff appointment in Palestine. We were most awfully sorry to see the last of him; let's hope he comes back when his job is finished.

Colonel Buller gave a very fine gymkhana on the North Front on Tuesday, 6th of May, in which the battalion carried



South Barracks, Gibraltar.

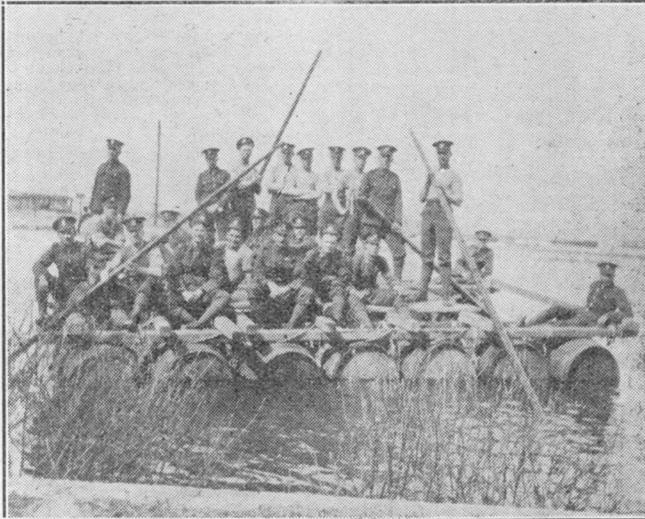
1st Battalion—Continued.

away more than their share of the prizes, for jumping and wrestling on horseback, and many comic races.

T.R.R.

Boxing.

On Saturday, April 26th, on the invitation of Capt. Klemann, U.S.N., commanding the *U.S.S. Pittsburgh*, a team of five pugilists from the battalion competed against a team from the American Cruiser. In addition to those taking part a number of men were invited on board to watch the fighting. To many, no doubt, this was their first visit to a 'dry' ship and one wonders how many would like to transfer into the American Navy!



"C" Company, Training.

Before the boxing commenced a most interesting wrestling bout took place between two members of the crew, the winner being divided on time, neither being able to keep his opponent down long enough to secure a win outright.

The following are the results of the fight:—
Supple, The Buffs beat Caudiel, U.S.N.
French, The Buffs beat Neeley, U.S.N.
Watt, U.S.N. beat Hearn, The Buffs.
Turner, The Buffs beat Mandracchia, U.S.N.
Clark, U.S.N. beat Hird, The Buffs.

Between the fights "The Gold Dust Turks" amused the audience by "playing the fool" and singing coon songs.

At the conclusion of the entertainment the boxers and spectators were provided with light refreshment (dry), thus concluding a very pleasant evening.

Yarns.

1. C Company were drawing ammunition from the Q.M. stores. The fatigue was "turned out" in "penny numbers" and the L/Cpl. i/c. on arrival asked the men the questions:

"Is everybody here?"

One intelligent individual replied:

"No Corp. There's one bloke 'ere who ain't turned up yet."

2. The following letter was sent to a certain young man in A Company by a Spanish subject:—
Police,

Will you kindly give these letter to P. Newman, A Company, and if he not there yes leave it on the store man room if not put it on his bed is you obidin Miss.—

No answer so the boy

Can come straight down.

And I will thank

You ever so much

indeed.

3. Rock of Ages
Rock of sorrow
Guard to-day.
C.B. to-morrow.

Things we want to know.

(Unclassified).

When will the Post Corporal clear the letter box at the correct time?
Who was the Corporal of "B" Company who sent a tin of Jam to the Guard for a hot meal?

Do hairy scorpions still exist on the Rock?

Who was the drummer who said, "Lower your bayonet and watch your shots better, you can easily see them?"

And is he sweating on leave at all?

Is *Swift* getting Regimental lately? No names in "Mackeral."

A Trip to Tangier.

Easter Monday saw the small Bland Gebel Tank commandeered to take a hundred Buffs over to Tangier—for many their first visit to Africa, with its peculiar types of peoples and smells. An early start—rather an effort—the good ship set sail at seven and skirting the south of Spain passed close to Tarifa before crossing to Tangier where the landing was effected in small boats—boats because the first part of the journey was in a motor boat and the second part in a rowing boat.

Numerous guides were ready on the pier to pounce upon those wanting to see the sights, for Tangier is an old city and it must be remembered was occupied and garrisoned by the Queens in 1661. The first most noticeable thing one saw was all the different types of natives, ranging from town bred Moors to the more hardened looking dwellers from the mountains and here and there a very dark type from the desert or lonely West African colonies. The city is cosmopolitan, but naturally it has been ruled by the representatives of England, France and Spain, and where the representatives are other tradespeople will settle; so we find many modern shops mixed up with the local type of shop and workshop combined, where the local inhabitant makes the goods and sells them there and then. Perhaps the chief industry is that dealing with leather work, and it was most interesting to watch the old Moors working at the leather, which one sees for sale in Gibraltar in the form of blotters, bags and baskets. One noticed there were very few young men about but perhaps if one enquired we should find they were following the standard of some rebel Chieftain in the mountains behind the city.

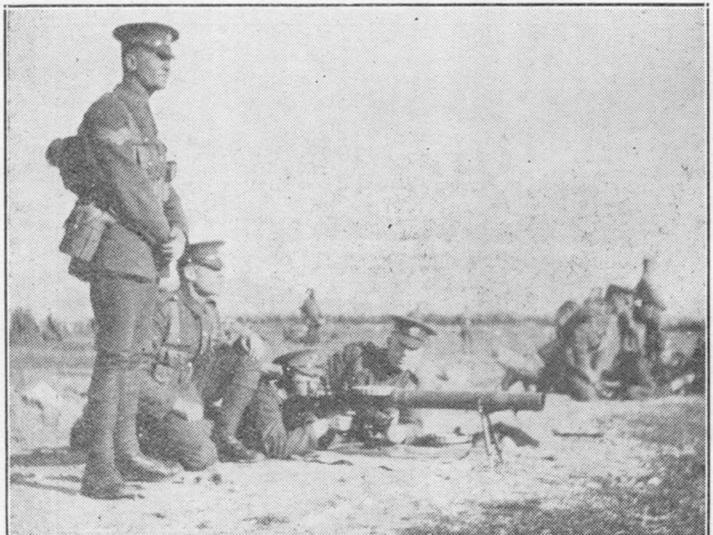
The streets in the Arab town are narrow, steep and paved, so not negotiable by the huge charabancs that seem out of place in this country, but which regularly ply between Tangier and the towns on the coast, and what is more, are very popular with the Moors who seem to enjoy a trip in them.

What each Buff did is a matter of his own concern, most of them were pestered by sellers of postcards, and articles of leather work, but they all turned up for the ship which left at five on a rather rough journey back to its own port, with much news to write home about and in most cases, a very sunburnt complexion.

CORPORALS' MESS.

I am afraid our notes for this month will be likened unto the famous *Mutt*—very short!

Our round of Social activities seemed to be finished when the Navy left us for *Merric England* last month, as we have done very little since.



"D" Company, Annual Musketry.

1st Battalion—Continued.

It is true that every Thursday evening our friends rally to the Mess for our weekly Whist Drives, that have proved great successes, but beyond that I am afraid we have done little worth recording.

Our new neighbours, the Suffolk Regiment, have arrived on the Rock and a few little impromptu socials have been held, but it will be on the 9th of the month when we hold our official welcome social to our new friends, and notes connected with it must be sent in for next month's *Dragon*.

"C" Company having completed their Musketry Course for 1924, it has been arranged for a joint funeral of the guns of the forty odd marksmen that have to bury off this year.

After several attempts to sell the cross guns and Lewis gun badge he has been proud of for at least six months, one optimistic L/Cpl. has decided to have them stored until he fires his next course.

It is hoped that "A" Company will not get a better average than their old rivals, as it is rumoured that "A" and "C" Companies are to be sent to Casemates in the early autumn and with no "B" Company to intervene. I guess the life in the mess will be like a continual conference of musketry instructors. (Whoa Ding Dong).

Cpl. Wilcox has left us to attend a Machine Gun course at Netherhaven and we all wish him the best of luck. I guess he will be able to tell us all about "Indecent Firing" when he returns to us.

Our old caterer, Arthur, having completed his tour of duty, is now considering the possibility of opening up a firm in opposition to the N.A.A.F.I., now that he has learnt the necessary wrinkles.

No notes seem to be complete unless a few enquiries are made, so here goes:—

What kind of bait do Mutt and Jeff use when fishing on Sundays, and must it be kept corked?

BUNNY.

ORDERLY ROOM STAFF.

The very people from whom one expects to receive Notes (at least, from the "clerical" point of view), have not, up to now, contributed. So the wise men put their heads together, and decided that they would surprise the "Dragonites" and launch forth. I think we are entitled to a "Things we want to know" column, don't you, Mr. Ed.?

Things we want to know.

Does a typewriter become "running hot" after much "jamming down" of the keys, or can it decay if not used? I think that our machines must be absolutely decayed. (I don't think!)

We are organising a sports committee with a view to entering for the Regimental Sports, and also to find if there really do exist any "Sportsmen" in the Orderly Room.

Every afternoon you will find us gadding about in Gibraltar. (I.D.T.)

Is the "Correspondence clerk" an envied person?

Ours is one of the so-called SAUFT JOBS.

Can people laugh up their sleeve whilst on furlough, and do they PRAY to return (ask Billie).

Is "Observations, please" the "Return King's" death knell? Are there any secrets in filing?

OLIVER UNDERWOOD.

Headquarter Wing.**MACHINE GUN PLATOON.**

The month of May finds us still doing duties in fine style, but as regards the sports very little has occurred owing to the loss of the fleet and the Irish Guards having left for England.

We still have a few opponents to challenge as the Guards were replaced by the 2nd Battalion The Suffolk Regiment, who have just arrived here from a hill station in India. On the 14th we played our first football match against the Machine Gunners of the Suffolks which we won by 7-2.

The Team consisted of:—Pte. James (Goal) / Ptes. Bidwell, Cribben (Backs); Ptes. Bench, Cox, Cpl. Wilson (Half Backs); L/Cpl. Mount, L/Cpl. Marshall, Pte. Belcher, L/Cpl. Dudley, Pte. Norris (Forwards). Scorers: L/Cpl. Mount (2), L/Cpl. Marshall (1), Pte. Norris (2), Pte. Belcher (1), L/Cpl. Dudley (1).

We also had a G.O.C.'s inspection on the 10th which proved a credit to the gunners by giving a good display in Indirect firing under Lt. T. R. Reid, M.C.

We also played A Company at football on 17th and although we only had a weak team out against them owing to so many being on duty we managed to secure a draw. The following played for us:—James (Goal); Bipwell and Cribben (Backs); Wilding, Cox, Rook (Half Backs); Wright, Gates, Paul Norris (Forwards).

We held a Sports Meeting for 23 Company on the 24th on little bay Ground, the results being:—

100 yards.

1. Pte. Beck.
2. L/Cpl. Shaw.
3. L/Cpl. Hadlow.
4. Pte. Cork.

Time: 10½ secs.

220 yards.

1. L/Cpl. Shaw.
2. Pte. James.
3. L/Cpl. Hadlow.

440 yards.

1. Pte. Rook.
2. Pte. James.
3. L/Cpl. Hadlow.

880 yards.

1. L/Cpl. Dudley.
2. Pte. Newall.
3. Pte. Rook.

1 mile.

1. L/Cpl. Reid.
2. L/Cpl. Cruttenden.
3. Ptes. Crabb and Martin, Dead Heat.

3 miles.

1. Pte. Hogben.
2. Pte. Martin.

Only two entries owing to bad ground.

Thus we are able to select the Harris Shield team on the 16th of May. We played a team of the R.A.M.C. on the 25th and we were most unlucky to lose after a good game by a narrow margin by 2-1 against us.

Things we want to know.

Is it true that the M.G.'s have a wet weather football team, also a dry one?

Is it true that Bench is being transferred to Tottenham Hotspurs?

Is it true that Pte. Norris gives his bird sand he brought from Mesopotam and is it to let us all know he is in the Camel Country?

Is it true that our chain breaker's going in for the High Jump, putting the weight, also anchor man to the Tug-of-War?

SIGNAL SECTION.

Since writing last we have with us again our Signalling Officer, whom we are all heartily glad to welcome.

This past month has given us plenty of opportunities to shine (or was it shin) when we climbed to the top of the pebble as the Yanks choose to call the rock.

A Brigade Signal Scheme was our part in a G.O.C.'s inspection held here on April 10th and 11th, and we did our best to find the rock apex, "our friends," as they are affectionately called.

On April 14th Cpl. Vale started on a gas course and we are informed (unofficially) that he takes over Gibraltar Gas Company later.

The good weather during Easter gave us every chance to continue our progress in sports of all kinds. Swimming being in great demand whilst fishing had some supporters.

Strict training is being carried on, with a view to classification shortly, in which we are all greatly interested and we all hope to do well. It will not be for the want of trying if we don't.

We have amongst us a runner who goes under the rather obscure name of Spike, and it is thought that he will soon be able to challenge Cottrell for the championship of the Army. (Who said "I don't think").

Things we want to know.

Who was the N.C.O. who asked to pack up communication because of the wind?

Is Abe mousing up and why?

Who found an address on the floor and wrote to the lady named therein. And is he engaged yet?

Who is "Spike," and is he related to "Spud"?

Does Pony want a double-decked topee?

DRUMS.

Up to the present April has not been what we have all thought it would turn out, generally known to be the month of many showers, but we have been very lucky by only having several days of rain and the rest of the month we have been almost grease-spots. The temperature has been nearly 110° during the last few days and will sure to be much higher before many more weeks are over. I am sorry very little can be said in the way of sports. We did, however, manage to get a match with "Arena" F.C. of La Lencia, on their ground on May 3rd, which resulted in a win for "Arena" Club by 5-1, after a very hard-fought game. We also had a very fine game with the "Yanks" of the U.S.S. Pittsburgh, which was a win for them by 2-1.

BUSTER.

Dear Editor,

I am sending a photo of the "Rock" which I took from the sea. I thought perhaps you might have a spare space for it.

[We are very sorry not to have room this month for this excellent photograph, thank you all the same. Editor.]

Things we want to know.

Did Freddie get his socks back?

And in what condition?

Whose Kit was named by Lt. Coates, as the "Old Woman's Rag Shop"?

Who was the Drummer, when asked to take a flute belonging to "Lackry" on parade, and said, "I can't play that, as it has been used to playing 1st flute parts"?

A COMPANY.

With the arrival of the fine weather everything and everybody seem to be "getting a move on" as if inspired by that "Kruchen" feeling.

For the Easter Holidays we had lovely weather and a trip was arranged to Tangier on Easter Monday, and although everybody seemed to have enjoyed themselves, the less said about Tangier the better.

Swimming is the great pastime at present and we have a nice spot near barracks called Camp Bay. Another favourite spot is Catalan Bay, which, although small, is an ideal place to spend a few hours. Everything is quite handy there, a tea shop for the R.A.T.A. members

1st Battalion—Continued.

and a canteen for the more thirsty ones, tents and bathing costumes can be hired and a gharry is always available for the return journey.

The Harris Shield Competition is in full swing and we succeeded in obtaining first place in the cross country run which means another five points. At football we were fairly successful, gaining two points off 23 Company, but lost two to "B" Company. More matches will be played this week and we are looking forward to coming out on top.

Our boxers are doing well in the Harris Shield Competition and we hope to see a few in the finals to help us retain the shield.

We are all looking forward to the sports on Albuhera Day which by a stroke of luck falls on the day of all days (Friday) and no doubt we will give a good account of ourselves.

THE ROCK APE.**Things we want to know.**

To whom does the Regimental Bus belong?

When will it be available for the families of "Other Ranks"?

Is Joe browned off?

Why does he want the 28th of April to come?

Who was the groom who hung a blanket out to dry when it was raining, and is he the short fellow?

How did "Mike" like going on Guard 21st April, and has he got over it yet?

Who is the Rock Ape?

C COMPANY.

Another month has passed over our heads. To us it seems very quick, because of our time being taken up in getting out a third Class Shot, for we had not our friends of last year *that knew how to mark*; consequently, several of us had to attend that burial service that fall on so many after firing, to keep the guns and lose them, and we are sorry to say no photographer was there to witness the pathetic ceremony, but we are told that a certain fellow visited the burial ground, and dug up enough cross guns to last him two pontoons, if he was a marksman every year. The weather was against us, for the wind played us some awful tricks, at kneeling, rapid and 500 yards, but we draw pay of soldiers and are supposed to be able to use our rifles at all times; well, so much for the rifle. How we shall finish up with Lewis Gun we don't know; not so well this year I am afraid, but we shall not be bottom of the list for best Shooting Company.

We have been asked to relate our troubles, pleasures, etc., during the past month, to let our friends at home and abroad know what we have been doing, but with C Company very little would be of interest to anyone, but here goes. The first week was very wet and taken up with getting ready for G.O.C.'s Inspection. In preparation for this we had a dash over the Assault Course, I do not know who it was bent his bayonet double, digging up the Square, but a certain Corporal went through the sacks with a yell, so he may have tried to get to Australia but found the Square too hard; and in the Gymn. Pte. Barrell found the floor harder than his neck. In the Miniature Range, someone had his sights leaning. I am not going to tell you it was an Officer, but it may have been because of the rain. On the first day of the Inspection we had company drill to perform, followed by a very interesting lecture by our Company Commander on "The Company in The Attack," which we had to do on the 2nd day in front of H.E. The Governor. What he thought of it, we do not know, but you may depend it was alright for we did not have to do it the second time, and we should have been good so close after Company training.

The remainder of the month was taken up as I have previously stated.

We congratulate our Bayonet Fencing Team on gaining for us eight points towards the Harris Shield, also the Football team in getting up to the Semi-final in the Governor's Cup.

We only hope that the Football team will do as well as they have been doing in the Harris Shield, also the Cross Country Running Team, also the Boxing Team, which is all taking place as this goes to press, so I hope to have some very interesting events to relate next month.

Things we want to know.

Who are the mad squad of the company and are they very "Dents"?

When are the Irish Guards returning to the Rock?

Was the Company jazz band a success or does it want a new band-master?

Did the party to Tangier enjoy their day's trip?

When did Darkey of wet canteen fame get his commission?

Does Taylor, H. like being a number 2 and was the "skipper" very wild?

When is the marriage coming off, of the two I./Cpls. in "C" Company, and are 10 and 12 Platoons being invited?

The 1878 Draft.

BY JACKY JACKY, (late 2nd Battalion).

THE composition of the draft was very peculiar, for many of the recruits bore old phizogs and very wiry frames, frames that I was sure had seen extensive training in the Old Militia which, in those days, we termed "The Malikites." They were, however, fairly steady men and excellent soldiers.

The draft embarked on the 9th January, 1878 on the S.S. *American* at Southampton and on boarding her we found we had as companions a draft of the 87th, going out to join the Connaughts (88th). Of the commissioned ranks bound for South Africa there were General the Hon. Thesiger (Lord Chelmsford), Colonels Redvers Buller, Evelyn Wood and McGregor, Major Goss and Lieut. Melville of the 24th, who later, at Isandlwana, fell in battle with the colours of his Regiment bound round his body.

When crossing the Bay of Biscay we lost sight of a great number of our men but as the sea became calm they emerged from their hiding places.

The Corporal in charge of our draft "Board" by name, was on board, and laid on a board, but had no idea how to see after the boarding of his men, so I, being a Lance Jack—not salt water—took the job on, seeing that the Purser, Steward and Storeman were jolly fine fellows to deal with. After leaving Madeira and Teneriffe where a plentiful supply of fruit had been obtained by the men through the good offices of the Chief Officer, the men of the 87th seemed to have acquired sweet tastes and minds for they had oversweetened their Sunday's dough, which, when baked, turned out black, having become burnt. On the General going around for inspection the men, of course complained, and were awarded an extra ration for the following day, but they scraped that which was burnt and demolished the remainder. The Chef had to bear the brunt of course. He however, became the winner in the end. The men of the mess on the following dough day decided to have "ditto repeat" and they therefore made the dough, covered it with sugar, and took it to the galley, whereupon the Chef took it to the Steward for the examination of the General who deprived the mess of not only of what he had examined but ingredients for dough for the remainder of the voyage as a punishment.

On landing at Cape Town, we disembarked and proceeded to the Barracks which were empty, the 88th being at the Front engaged against "Creti." Having got settled down, some went out to visit the City for a couple of hours, and a few returned rather heady, having imbibed too much "Pontae." Hearing a scuffle and a thud when I returned to the room after arranging for rations, I went to see what the trouble was and found Pte. Wilson—who was a bit of a boxer—had knocked over Lance-Corporal Watson and was for the guard-room, but no one would take him for fear of trouble. He espied me and exclaimed "There Whit, I'm for the clink; I'll go with you and nobody else." I took him, having an escort of two stalwarts coming behind. He had not been in the Dry Room but a few minutes when he desired to see the Doctor, who was sent for and when he arrived Wilson let out with his left and *nearly* landed. The door was then closed; the Doc. took off his coat and went in again at him and then they went at it for about 20 minutes. The Doc. came out smiling and said to the Corporal of the Guard "Say nothing about this; he's a jolly good man." When brought before the Major i/c. on the following morn on a charge of being drunk, Wilson had a reprimand and as far as I know, ceased getting into trouble. What became of him I know not, but I do know that he was formerly a Cavalry Fencing Instructor.

(To be continued).

::: For Sporting Pictures :::

The Art Depot

B. & W. FISK-MOORE,

50 St. George's Street, Canterbury.

The 2nd Battalion.



OWING to the scattered state of the Battalion during the past month, there have been no events of any great importance.

"A" and "B" Companies with the Machine Gun Platoon went out to camp at Chickerell on April 14th to fire their annual musketry course. They were not favoured with particularly brilliant weather, during their three weeks in camp, and firing was delayed considerably owing to the rain and fog. The conditions were so bad that they had to fire the whole of one Sunday in order to complete the course by the time stipulated, which caused some letters of protest in the local paper from residents of Chickerell.

"C" and "D" Companies went out to camp on May 6th, and "A" Company with the M.G. Platoon returned to the Verne, while "B" took over Red Barracks at Weymouth. Up to the present "C" and "D" have been fairly lucky as regards weather with the exception of the first day or two.

During "A" and "B" Companies' stay in camp, the B.A.D.S. came to the fore again with a very excellent concert, which was produced on two nights, April 30th and May 1st. An account of this, taken from *The Dorset Daily Echo* (by kind permission of the Editor), is printed elsewhere.

On April 25th, our Brigade Commander, Col.-Commandant Sir Hugh Elles, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., paid a visit to the battalion, the weather was typical and firing was quite impossible.

Congratulations to Captain Rice and C.S.M.I.M. Ambrose, who, we hear, obtained D's in their course at Hythe. Capt. Rice has now left us for a tour of duty at the depot, where we wish him the very best of luck. He will be a great loss to the battalion, especially in all forms of sport.

We have to welcome Captain Morley to the battalion, and we hope he will have a good time while he is with us. We are looking forward to his first appearance with the Buffs' Amateur Dramatic Society.

Albuhera Day in the battalion, was observed as a holiday, the main items of interest being the Officers *v.* The Sergeants' Rifle Shoot, the battalion Treasure Hunt and the Officers *v.* The Sergeants' cricket match.

In the officers *v.* sergeants' shoot, the officers were the winners, scoring 343 points to 304. The officers also beat the sergeants at cricket by an innings and 31 runs, thanks mainly to some excellent bowling by Lieuts. Sandilands, Cartwright and Lister, and Capt. Hamilton. In the batting line, Captain Haymen, Lieuts. Hoare, Cartwright and Sandilands were distinctly useful.

Officers' *v.* Sergeants' Shoot.

OFFICERS.		SERGEANTS.	
Major Howard Smith	... 46	Bd.-Mr. Hewitt	... 62
Capt. Hamilton	... 33	C.S.M. Sayer	... 45
Lieut. Stainforth	... 63	C.Q.M.S. Austin	... 39
Lieut. Knight	... 50	C.Q.M.S. Jones	... 53
Lieut. Foster-Hall	... 55	A./S./Sgt. Tweed	... 11
Lieut. Hoare	... 46	Sgt. Goldfinch	... 6
Lieut. Speed	... 33	Sgt. Warner	... 46
Lieut. King	... 17	Sgt. Shoobridge	... 42
Total	... 343	Total	... 304

The fortunate winners in the Treasure Hunt were as follows :-

- 1st prize—£1—L/Cpl. Walters, H.Q. Wing.
 8 prizes—10/- each.—
 Sgt. Dennis, Bds. Cork.
 Boy C. Dudman, Boy Nelthorpe.
 Pte. Bland, Bds. Rawlins.
 Boy Banks, Boy Jones.

Officers' *v.* Sergeants' Cricket Match.

ALBUHERA DAY.

SERGEANTS.		2nd Innings.	
1st Innings.			
Sgt. Webb, b Sandilands	... 3	b Lister	... 0
Sgt. Smith, c Penlington, b Sandilands	... 3	not out	... 14
C.S.M. Simon, b Sandilands	... 0	b Lister	... 2
Mr. Hewitt, b Cartwright	... 6	c Hoare, b Lister	... 1
Sgt. Larkin, b Cartwright	... 3	run out	... 5
Sgt. Dennis, b Sandilands	... 1	b Lister	... 0
Sgt. Carvell, c Speed, b Cartwright	... 0	b Howard-Smith	... 1
Sgt. Sidwell, b Sandilands	... 8	c Penlington, b Sidwell	... 6
Color-Sgt. Jones, c and b Cartwright	... 12	c Hayman, b Hamilton	... 4
Sgt. Tong, c Penlington, b Sandilands	... 2	b Sandilands	... 13
Sgt. Bridgland, not out	... 0	b Hamilton	... 0
Extras	... 2	Extras	... 7
	40		53

OFFICERS.

1st Innings.	
Major Howard-Smith, b Sidwell	... 1
Capt. Haymen, b Sidwell	... 29
Capt. Hamilton, run out	... 15
Lieut. Cartwright, b Sidwell	... 20
Lieut. Hoare, run out	... 26
Colonel Kennedy, c Dennis, b Sidwell	... 4
Lieut. Penlington, c Tong, b Sidwell	... 8
Lieut. Sandilands, not out	... 17
Lieut. Speed, not out	... 2
Capt. Field	did not bat
Lieut. Lister	... 2
Extras	... 124
Total for 7 Wickets	... 124

In the Sergeants' First Innings, Lieut. Sandilands bowled 7 overs, 4 of which were maidens, taking 6 wickets for 15 runs, while Lieut. Cartwright, also in 7 overs, took 4 for 23 runs.

In the Second Innings, Lieut. Lister accounted for five of the sergeants at a cost of only ten runs. A really useful performance!

BOWLING ANALYSIS :

SERGEANTS.	
1st Innings.	
Lieut. Cartwright	... 4 for 23
Lieut. Sandilands	... 6 for 15
2nd Innings.	
Capt. Hamilton	... 2 for 13
Lieut. Lister	... 5 for 10
Major Howard-Smith	... 1 for 8
Lieut. Cartwright	... 0 for 10
Lieut. Sandilands	... 1 for 5

OFFICERS.

1st Innings.	
Sergt. Sidwell	... 5 for 60
Sergt. Smith	... 0 for 29
Sergt. Larkin	... 0 for 16
Sergt. Carvell	... 0 for 18

UMPIRES :

Lieut. King and Sgt. Bigg.

SCORERS :

Lieut. Knocker and Sgt. Shoobridge.

Things we want to know.

Who was the Officer who went out to do a tactical scheme, clad in "plus fours" and a Uniform cap? Is this the new fashion?

Who is the W.O. who believes in adopting civilians' compliments, when in uniform? What did the Officers' Wives think?

Who was the man in "A" Company, who when asked what he would do with his rifle in the trenches during a Gas attack, answered "Bury it"? And did the Brigade Commander agree?

Cricket.

The prospects of the battalion cricket team for this season are poor. Captain Wilkins, an asset to any side, has left us for the 1st Battalion. Lieutenants Rowe, Crozier and Mallam have also gone, while Pte. Seally, a bowler of no ordinary calibre, has been discharged. Corporal Farr, after many years of yeoman service to the side, has also been discharged. For our batsmen we must rely on Captain Haymen, Lieuts. Cartwright and Hoare, and L/Cpl. Marshall, who has a good style and got runs last year; otherwise we have no one we can rely on, though perhaps Capt. Hamilton, Lieut. King and Bd.-Mr. Hewitt may help us; so much for our batting, but our bowling is even worse! Boy Nelthorpe is a discovery and our best bowler, unless Lieut. Sandilands can find time to play. Lieut. Cartwright, Cpl. Tutt and Pte. Deverson are the other bowlers, so it looks as if Lieut. Cartwright and Boy Nelthorpe will have to do most of the work, though the latter is the only really good bowler we possess. Lieut. Penlington and L/Cpl. Woods are both available behind the stumps and there is little to choose between them.

Our fielding we cannot say much about, except that Lieut. Hoare and Cpl. Tutt and occasionally Captain Haymen are really good fieldsmen in any positions.

We presume that the following will be tried in the side in addition to those mentioned above:—

Lieuts. Lister, Speed, Haggard, Sgt. Smith, Cpl. Robinson and L/Cpl. Sawkins.

FIXTURE LIST.

May	7.	Weymouth	...	...	...	...	Away.
	10.	Portland R.N.	...	...	...	...	Home.
	16.	Officers v. Sergeants	...	...	...	...	Home.
	21.	4th Battalion Royal Tank Corps	...	...	...	...	Away.
	24.	Weymouth	...	...	...	...	Home.
	28.	Moreton	...	...	...	...	Away.
June	4.	Canford School	...	...	...	...	Away.
	7.	Blandford	...	...	...	...	Away.
	11.	Depot, Dorset Regiment	...	...	...	...	Away.
	17.	Weymouth College	...	...	...	...	Home.
	18.	Central Schools, R. Tank Corps	...	...	...	...	Away.
	24.	Weymouth College	...	...	...	...	Home.
	25.	4th Battalion Royal Tank Corps	...	...	...	...	Home.
	28.	Weymouth	...	...	...	...	Away.
July	2.	Moreton	...	...	...	...	Home.
	5.	Blandford	...	...	...	...	Home.
	9.	Depot, Dorset Regiment	...	...	...	...	Home.
	12.	Portland	...	...	...	...	Away.
	16.	Weymouth	...	...	...	...	Away.
	23.	Central Schools, R. Tank Corps	...	...	...	...	Home.
Aug.	2.	Portland	...	...	...	...	Away.

Soldier Actors.

BUFFS' ENTERTAINMENT AT CHICKERELL.

By kind permission of Mrs. Facey and the members of the Chickerell Women's Club, an excellent entertainment was given in the clubroom by the members of the Buffs' Amateur Dramatic Society, this week, under the able direction of Corpl. R. Diamond. Performances were given on Wednesday and Thursday, and on both occasions a large and appreciative audience were present. The entertainment opened with selections rendered by the orchestra, and there followed a two part programme.

The first half of the programme served as an introduction to the Pierrot troupe which formed the main part of the entertainment. The curtain went up on an amusing farce, entitled the "Eve of the Performance." Pte. Woods as the producer and Cpl. Wilson, Cpl. Martin, and Boy Banks, ably supplied the comic element; whilst Sergt. Smith and Pte. Savage delighted the audience with their songs.

The second part of the programme opened with a song: "One by One," in which each member of the cast briefly introduced himself. The next item, "The Adjutant," a song though not originally intended to be humorous, was rendered so by force of circumstances at the last performance, when it brought down the house.

The six songs that followed were excellent, but special mention must be made of the "Parsons of Puddle"; it was given most amusingly.

The entertainment concluded with another farce entitled "Priceless Percy," in which Bandsman Cary, who made an excellent figure, assisted by Pte. Woods, gave Cpl. Wilson scope for his inimitable play as cook.

Great praise is due to Capt. G. R. Howe, who spent much time in organizing a splendid Pierrot troupe. The audience heartily acclaimed the B.A.D.S. to be "the goods."

By kind permission Dorset Daily Echo.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

"THE EVE OF THE PERFORMANCE"

The Producer: Mr. N. O. Good.

(Pte. Woods).

Others: Horace and Maurice

(Cpl. Wilson and Cpl. Martin).

Senor Mackintosh

(Pte. Savage).

Professor Picrust

(Sergt. Smith).

Call Boy—Horatio Blobbs

(Boy Banks).

PART II.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. "One by One" | The Company |
| 2. "The Adjutant" | L/C. Bennell |
| 3. "House-Hunting" | Cpl. Wilson |
| 4. "The Bolshevics" | Cpl. Martin
L/C. Bennell
Boy Banks
Sergt. Smith |
| 5. "Nirvana" | Pte. Savage |
| 6. "Parsons of Puddle" | Cpl. Wilson
Cpl. Martin
Pte. Woods |
| 7. "Night-time in Italy" | Sergt. Smith |
| 8. "The Little Stream" | Cpl. Wilson
Pte. Savage
L/C. Bennell
Pte. Woods |
| 9. FARCE, entitled "PRICELESS PERCY." | |
| | God Save the King. |

SERGEANTS' MESS, CHICKERELL.

"C" and "D" are now at Chickerell Musketry Camp, and the Members of the Mess are just getting their eyes down to the Rifle, Lewis Gun, and bed: plenty of the first, very much of the second, and very little of the third.

Chips Hamblin thinks of recalling his bullets by wireless as they were broadcasted in the wrong direction. No station is reported to have picked them up yet. Chips shouted for "necessary action" when he had his first stoppage, and has never forgotten it since. Buster asked that his No. 2 should "put another record on" and as for Jef his pals placed a bath out behind the butts to catch his shots. Sergt. Jones has lately arrived from West Africa and is with us firing his course. He seems to be hot stuff with the gun, and we fancy he will give Bunny a run for first place among the Sergeants. C.S.M. Simon has done very well, especially in the Gas mask practice. We have had it rather wet of late and it has delayed us a couple of days, but undoubtedly we shall be able to pick that period up. C.Q.M.S. Austin and Ctr.-Sgt. Ricketts are equal at present in their Lewis Gun scores, and a considerable amount of money has been laid on as to who will be top dog. A.B. 71.

Things we want to know.

If Chippy has mortgaged his "Corrugated" Ration Allowance?

A COMPANY.

It is a pleasant change to be back in barracks again after camp life at Chickerell.

The company average in firing is very good, being first class, but it is open to be beaten so 'nuff said.

Lieut. A. G. C. Stainforth M.C. is to be congratulated on his excellent score, being top in the company.

Our Company Officer, Capt. C. Field, O.B.E., finished Marksman and qualified in the Lewis gun.

Life in The Verne at present is quiet, owing to the other companies, with the exception of part of H.Q. Wing being away. "C" and "D" Companies with details of H.Q. Wing are at Chickerell Musketry Camp, and already have had one or two wet days, which is a great set back to firing, when time is limited.

Congratulations to Corpl. Woods on obtaining Company shot.

Sgt. Bigg has been presented with a baby Girl, and the Company wishes him the best of luck, also Mrs. Bigg, in now having a "PIGGEON PAIR."

"TUBBY" SPOONER is very disgusted with his shooting this year, I wonder why?—and on the "tack" too.

C COMPANY.

Here we are again at Chickerell to fire our Annual Musketry Course. The weather has been very much against us, and has made a big difference to the shooting. Still we are looking forward to better weather as we intend to do a lot while we are here. If the weather is bad we go about our work in the same old way and the old motto "Keep smiling" still stands good. Did Robbs smile when some kind person knocked his breakfast in the mud. Some say this is Chickerell-super-mud, and I do not doubt it. We are so used to wading along in it, that we get quite mad if the sun tries to break through.

As soon as the weather permits we are going all out for sports. We all hope to carry off most of the honours this year. The thought of being the rearguard of the Battalion has been dismissed from our minds. There is quite a lot up our sleeves which will surprise a few.

The Range warden seems to be very pleased with Table "L" people, who are trimming the hedges a treat. Sgts. Joy and Freeman are all out for possibles; they must practice in their tents.

Everyone in the Company congratulates C.S.M. Potter on getting married, and all wish him and Mrs. Potter the best of health and prosperity throughout their lives.

Things we want to know.

Who pinched the score board standard, and was it done in spite? Is it true that when unpiling arms someone picked up Goodall? Who was the firing-point instructor who had just said to a man who had just scored five bulls: "Lack of grip"?

Has Riley got a licence for his "gun," and who told him to point it up the range when unloading?

Has "Bunny" got a bob on, as he is practicing and declaring his point of aim?

Does the Camp Adjutant always play cricket on cricket grounds and when he doesn't, does he play cricket?

How many people told Capt. Hamilton that his "Oak-leaf" was falling off?

ALBUHERA DAY AT CHICKERELL.

It was a day's holiday, and a lovely day, and so everyone was in high spirits for the sport which was about to take place.

The item of the day was the football, six aside teams. Quite a few teams were made up from the Company, and they turned out spick and span. The games were played on the range, which took the whole morning to get through. We did very well, but "D" Company once again had the luck and knocked us out in the semi-final. Prizes of money were given to the two teams in the final and to the best losing team. It was jolly good fun to watch some of the games, and I am sure that everyone enjoyed themselves that morning. Nassam was in high spirits, and amused us very much. Who tied Cpl. Ridge's cap to the firing point, perhaps our Nassams can tell him as I am sure he would like to know. Joy rides were given free of charge by Nas on the two hundred yards firing point. L/c. Saunders' team reached the semi-final but had very bad luck. What was the odds, they were the best losers, so they did not grumble.

The rest of the day was spent in the usual manner, those who could not sleep polished up and went out to meet their best. The Corporals were ever so busy polishing their medals, as a dance was being held the same evening at Weymouth.

Some want an Albuhera day every week. No doubt we would have a few days' holiday a week if only we could celebrate every battle honour, we have won. Digs.

D COMPANY.

The Company has been on detachment at Red Barracks, Weymouth, for a considerable time and has been training hard when not pitching the camp for Musketry at Chickerell.

Capt. Rice is due back shortly from his course at Hythe and Lieut. Cartwright has returned to the Company after a long spell as Messing Officer. Spud Lee has gone on a carpentry course prior to getting his discharge after 21 years in the Army—he will be a great loss to the Regimental Hockey XI.

We are pleased to say that "Good Old D" has won the Football again in the Harris Shield Competition. We beat "C" Company 4-0, "A" Company 10-1, "B" Company 9-3, so we have quite a good goal average. Cpl. Tutt has scored most of our goals, but when the backs "feel cold" they have been known to run up and score on their own. Mullinger and L/Cpl. Knight have been splendid as backs, and Stocker should develop into a first class half-back. Cpl. Jewell at centre half works as hard as ever and makes beautiful openings for his forwards. The following have represented the Company in Harris Shield matches:—

Lieut. Cartwright, Cpl. Tutt, Cpl. Jewell, L/Cpl. Knight, Ptes. Stocker, Mullinger, Savage, L/Cpl. Wade, Ptes. Bamford, Batstone and Prior.

Prior has not had much to do between the sticks owing to the good work put up by the backs and halves, of whom L/Cpl. Wade deserves particular mention. Bamford has excelled at outside right.

Things we want to know.

Who thought "B" Company would beat good old "D" at soccer? Is it time "A" Company were thinking of bringing out a black-board to put up "D" Company's score?

Would it be better to turn out a 2nd XI. from "Good old D" to play against "A" and "B" Companies?

Wouldn't it make a better game if we did? Or shall we give our opponents five goals to start with?

Who is the N.C.O. who said "If you fall down stand still, man?" Why does Molly patiently wait outside Woolworth's at 8.30 every night?

If an Officer of the Company has found out how much he weighs? and does he know where "Boots" is?

Why does a certain Officer spend so much time in Rendells?

If Sgt. Wilkins still has a pain in his back—if so what is the reason of it?

Did the C.S.M. enjoy his birthday?

The Company has now left Red Barracks and is under canvas at Chickerell firing the Annual Musketry Course. We left many pleasant memories behind us in Red Barracks and the Company had made many friends in Weymouth. We hope to win the shooting this year, perhaps as easily as we won the Harris Shield Football. Anyhow Cpl. Trice is determined to beat Lieut. Sta inforth for Battalion Shot.

The Company entered for the Weymouth Football Club Six-a-side Tournament on April 30th. Our "A" team beat H.M.S. P. 38 "A" Team by four goals and one corner to one goal and one corner. Lieut. Cartwright scored two goals and Cpl. Tutt two while Stocker did good work. In the second round our "A" team fell to H.M.S. Vendetta "B" Team by one corner to two goals and one corner: we were very unlucky and should have made a draw, as Cpl. Tutt and Lieut. Cartwright several times hit the crossbar and upright with the goal-keeper beaten. Our "B" team were beaten in the first round by H.M.S. Vendetta "A" Team by two goals to one after a really good game, in which our forwards did not show to very great promise.

Teams.

"A" Team. Lieut. Cartwright, Cpl. Tutt, L/Cpl. Wade, L/Cpl. Knight, Pte. Stocker and Pte. Prier.

"B" Team. Cpl. Trice, Pte. Bamford, Batstone, Phillips, Savage and Norris.

Capt. Rice has left the Company for a tour of duty at the Depot and we are extremely sorry to lose him but wish him best luck, and we will let him know when we have won the Harris Shield.

Education Parade.

The Buffs were formed in 1572, and went to Holland in the same year, but before their departure were inspected by Queen Victoria, who had Field-Marshal Haig as her Prime Minister.

Officer: What is the plural of sheep?

Answer:—Two sheep, Sir?

Things we want to know.

Who pinched the tube when our C.O.M.S. was firing in a gas mask? How many runs Lieut. Cartwright made against Weymouth Cricket Club?

M.G. SECTION.

Pets' Corner.

Pip always starts the month badly, nothing but moaning and growling because he cannot get out very often now, whilst we are in Camp, and then only till 9.15 p.m., and this means to say he has to leave his bride at 8 p.m. Why does he go without his early morning cup of tea and is it right he is going through a matrimonial course at Xmas and will he invite the pets? We don't think so.

Squeak is still breaking girls' hearts at Weymouth. His Flash barmaid, Terrible Budge has now been left in the cold through Squeak meeting a sweet young thing named Pitt Pot Kate, who is well-known to the Skates for her drinking abilities. She has a figure like a camel and is as graceful as a camel. No wonder the pets refuse to recognise him when they pass him in the street. Squeak told his barmaid he was on escort duty and instead was spending a week-end at Bridport with Wilfred, Snaky Walters, and Charlie, "the incandescent one." Why did they choose Bridport for a week-end. Is it because it is known as the "ever open door."

Wilfred is getting worse every day. His girl, Milkchurn Mary, has given him up, which was chiefly Squeak's fault as he kept on laughing at her because she speaks through her nose. Wilfred thought he would try his luck with Madonna May, but he got a prod as she left him in Boat Street. What was the question 17 girls asked him in Bridport?

Wopski has been fairly quiet lately and has only once been to Weymouth. He came across Pavillion Polly and helped her to stick bills outside the Pavillion. Did he think he would get inside the pictures free?

Aunt Emma has become Fairy Godmother to her Fanny as she is saving his money for her and allowing her so much every day for her toilet requisites, etc. They were both seen in Woolworth's buying powder and scent, etc. What will Tashy do for razor blades now that Aunt Emma is at Camp?

Percy has broken out again and joined the pets in their outings. One night when he had 8, he was seen with the barmaid of the Pets' Headquarters, "The Bear," and was promising to be her husband, etc., all in an hour. What did she tell him when he told her she had bedroom eyes? Steady yourself Percy, or else the Pets will refuse to be familiar.

Angeline has been what the Pets call fairly quiet. He went on the Spree with some of his select Company, Robo and Buffy and came home sober?? Suddenly the Pets saw a fleeting figure running across the square like The Star of Eve, less the string of beads. Did she think she was in Zululand or was she thinking of that song "When its Wednesday in Italy, its night time over here."

We have a fresh pet to introduce, C. Mantell, who is known as Incandescent Charlie. His one falling is Pops? and after having one with the 8 his favourite song is Minnetonka. He is very often seen with Squeak and Snaky, and it is a toss up who drinks the most. The Pets have shown him all their haunts and introduced him to all their girls. The Duchess of Weymouth held a reception last week and Incandescent Charlie was introduced and he was greatly impressed with her charms.

O.S.

More About Dusty and Blinder.

EN ROUTE.

IT was a beastly wet morning that found Blinder, Dusty and the recruiting sergeant standing on the departure platform at Charing Cross: Big Ben could be heard distinctly, and its chimes—like Bow Bells—seemed to say:—

Turn away Blinder,
Turn away Dusty,
Stop here in London.

Along the platform came an elderly gentleman struggling under the weight of a hefty portmanteau and a set of golf clubs: it conveyed at once the impression to Dusty, that the price of a few packets of woodbines might be had for the asking, and forgetting for the moment his military status, at once touched his cap, and with a "Carry yer bag, Sir," looked longingly at its owner.

"Certainly, my lad: outside the station to a cab." and no sooner had the words been said, than Dusty had the task in hand.

The Canterbury train was just steaming in when the recruiter suddenly discovered Dusty was missing: turning round, he espied the culprit, bag in hand, racing along the platform towards the exit followed by the elderly gent carrying the golf clubs. Thoughts of desertion at once flew to the mind of the recruiter and in an instant, he likewise, was tearing along the platform after Dusty, yelling in the most approved military fashion "Stop him!" which was readily transposed into "Stop thief! Stop thief!" by the crowd that joined in the chase.

The railway police, fearing that once outside the premises, Dusty would make good his escape, commenced to sound full blast their whistles and an old dame, in the strictest confidence, informed another old dame that she had heard from the friend of a man she knew, that Dusty had committed a horrible murder in a tunnel at Sevenoaks.

Poor Dusty, followed by the elderly gent, trotted along quite unconcerned of the commotion he was causing, until, arriving outside the station he was deliberately tripped up by a uniformed policeman, and at once pounced upon by about a dozen members of the force of law and order.

"Trying to steal that 'ere gent's bag, eh?" said the policeman, but before the gent could explain, the voice of the recruiter was heard, "and trying to desert Her Most Gracious Majesty's Regular Army," whilst the old woman of strict confidence was emphatic in telling another old inquisitive busy-body that the villain had killed two women and robbed an old gent of his bag.

The policeman, who had so ruthlessly brought Dusty to the ground, evidently felt a great satisfaction at capturing so dangerous a menace to civilised society, and beaming at the elderly gent with a kind of future reward look on his pimpled face, enquired if he was going to charge the prisoner. "Give him in charge! what the devil do you mean? I want to know by what right you have to interfere with a peaceful citizen carrying my bag."

"It's nothing to do with the policeman or you either, gov'nor," interjected the recruiter. "I'm the man who'll decide this 'ere question: that man's an attempted deserter from Her Most Gracious Majesty's Regular Army and I'm going to take 'im back to the Saint George's Barracks to be tried by Court Martial for the grave crime he 'as committed."

The great crowd that had gathered almost penned in the actors of this sensational drama, until breathing space was well-nigh extinct. The elderly gent wiped the sweat from off his brown forehead and, turning to the recruiter desired to know the reason for anticipating desertion.

"It's nothing to do with you what the reason is," abruptly answered the recruiter. "This 'ere man run away directly the train to Canterbury came in: he is due at the Buffs' Depot at four o'clock to-day, but owing to his attempted desertion, he won't arrive, and a Courts Martial will now settle the business."

The elderly gent was not a bit perturbed: having enquired Dusty's name, he scribbled something on paper and handed it to the officious recruiter to peruse, it read:—

Private ———, The Buffs, has permission to be absent from his quarters from 4 p.m. 2/8/96, until 10 p.m., 3/8/96.

(Signed) X.V.Z.,

General,

War Office.

Dusty did not take advantage of spending the night in town, but made straight for Canterbury to join Blinder. Needless to say, he underwent no Courts Martial, but I hear the recruiter is now scrubbing tables and cleaning tea cans.

J.E.

(To be continued).

28th Division.

The Annual Dinner will take place at The Trocadero on Friday, 13th June next, at 7 o'clock for 7.30., Major-General H. L. Croker, C.B., C.M.G., presiding.

Tickets, to Members of the Dinner Club, 10/6, to non-members, 15/6; can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary,

Mr. P. A. BAYNES.

National Provincial Bank,
50 Cornhill, E.C.

(See also Captain Donalds letter on page 197.)

The Past and Present Association,

THE BUFFS.



ARRANGEMENTS for 1924.

PAST v. PRESENT CRICKET MATCH,
July 19th, at the Depot.

ANNUAL DINNER,
August 2nd, at the Depot.

REGIMENTAL GOLF MEETING,
October 2nd and 3rd, at Sandwich.

Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Secretary as soon as possible.

"Beneath Bell Harry."



ALBUHERA Day was, as usual, celebrated at the Depot and no opportunity was lost in bringing home to the recruits the importance of the occasion.

The fair opened on the Buffs' green soon after breakfast, and the N.C.O.'s put up an excellent show with their various money-making devices. There seem to be two things which always attract the British public and none the less the soldier. One is the opportunity to fling a missile at someone. A man who pokes his head

out of a barrel so that you can pot at him with a tent peg is irresistible, or a man in a top hat who submits to a free shot with a tennis ball is sure to appeal to any Britisher.

The other attraction is a show which appears to offer the chance of making money. In short, we all love a gamble. A sheet of canvas covered with small squares on to which we were invited to fling our coins, at prodigious odds, of course drew a large crowd. It also handed over a large profit!

The football shooting was well arranged this year—who could resist kicking a football at a brick wall covered with air balloons? and great was the satisfaction of seeing one explode on impact. There were many other good shows, but space does not admit of description.

The Sergeants had lunch with the Officers, and played them at cricket afterwards. The Sergeants won the toss and put up a fine score of 180 for 9 wickets. The Officers were left with the herculean task of getting the runs in 1½ hours which they failed to do. The official result was a draw, but the last batsmen were in the field when stumps were drawn and the officers were about a hundred runs behind.

After this we hustled off to prepare for the evening's programme, the band played a very good selection of music on the square until it was dusk and then we started the torch light tattoo. Much has been said recently concerning the value of such entertainments for recruiting purposes and we were sorry that more of the advocates of this scheme were not present to witness the performance. It really was a good show, from start to finish, and reflected great credit upon R.S.M. Dare, his assistants and his recruits. It was a comment frequently heard that fully trained troops could not have done it better. It is questionable whether they could have produced equal results. It must be borne in mind that whereas trained soldiers get rather bored with this sort of thing and consider that they know all about it, the recruit is enthusiastic and under such capable instructors, puts his whole soul into his job, the movements are not complicated but to produce a good effect demand the observance of every small detail. An interesting diversion occurred in the middle of the movement when the camp, out of which the torch bearers came to carry out their march, was attacked by a fierce tribe of Zulus. The British fire was terrific and the mortars fired from the camp ramparts woke the babies in Bridge. The attack was quite realistic and Aleo Kempo would have put the wind up most garrisons at night.

The evening finished with a dance in The Buffs' gymnasium which was well attended by the whole garrison. Much credit is due to the organisers and those responsible for the actual arrangements which were excellent. Dawn had almost broken on the following day before a somewhat exhausted party crawled home to bed. Albuhera Day was well celebrated.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

What a month it has been. Rain, everlasting rain, damping our khaki, damping our spirits, keeping us indoors and almost driving us through sheer melancholia to an excessive "damping of our whistles." However, we must be thankful for small mercies, and for the past few days we have had a welcome visit or two from old King Sol. How it has brightened us up, to be sure! Little wonder that the Big Wigs who can afford it seek a continental clime until the real English Summer has established itself.

Interior happenings in the Mess have been few and far between. The customary games have been indulged in, but there is no one, surely, who cares to stop in during the light evenings no matter what inducement may be held out to them in the shape of tournaments or what not. Practice at the cricket nets has so far only been possible on one or two occasions, but that, apparently, has been no great embarrassment to us for on Albuhera Day we played the officers, and although the match ended in a draw it was only time that saved the officers from a very obvious whacking. We batted first, and knocked up 172 for nine wickets and then declared the innings closed. R.S.M. Dare, who went in first, hit the bowling all over the field and totted up a sparkling 66, W.O. Collins came next with an exhilarating 34, and Sergt. Coaster a stylish 20. For the Officers, Major Lee, D.S.O., M.C., hit up a bright 17, Captain Morgan D.S.O., a really excellent 31, and Lt. Webster a most useful 16. Beyond that, the Officers did little, and had only 89 on the board with one wicket to fall when time came to their rescue. We are not crowing over our victory by any means, though we are glad we won, as we fully recognise that the Officers on the whole are capable of greater things than this score implies, and probably next time may "give us socks."

We are not saying anything in our notes about Albuhera Day as an account of it will appear elsewhere, but we feel that an expression of ours might go forth to the lads who carried out the Torchlight Tattoo and Battle Scene—for in all conscience those boys did magnificently, mere lads who can count their military service not in years but weeks. Its success, of course, is due in a very big measure to the endless trouble taken by the R.S.M. in bringing them to such a point of perfection, while it shows at the same time how attentive they must have been to his instruction to accomplish such a faultless exhibition.

We had dear old Davey Sweet up to see us the other day. He is staying with a Canterbury relative. The old veteran looked as fit as a fiddle, and said he felt so, too. A couple of rosy cheeks, a merry laugh, why! he looks well enough to go on for another period for pension. Good luck to you, Davey Boy,—have you, we wonder, yet dropped across that young scamp John Bennell. If so, we can well conjecture your conversation about the days of the Old Tinder Box and the bows and arrows.

We also heard from our old companion Walter Maillard, who is still in London and getting on fine with the firm he went to on discharge. He has, however, to work very hard, the hours are long, and he says that since he went away he has not even had time to have a game of cricket or football—games in which he excelled and of which he was very fond. Poor old Wallie, you've got our "Symps," and (Honour Bright) we'll write to you before very long. Best of wishes to you and yours.

On Sunday, the 18th, Mr. Tommy Carden (late C/Sergeant), who is employed as Toll Collector by the Canterbury Corporation, came to the Depot and was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal which has just been awarded him. Let us here again offer to him our very heartiest congratulations.

We are very sorry to learn that Mr. Alan Andrews' shop and stock in trade was almost totally destroyed by fire at Whitstable a little while back, and trust that good fortune may speedily come his way and help him over the many difficult stiles that we feel sure must at present be confronting him.

W.M.S.

CORPORALS' MESS.

A certain large-sized member of our mess created a burst of hilarity the other day, when he related how he was making a collection for services rendered. It was as follows:—"I put the old basin down with threepence in it to give it a start, and when I counted up the collection I was a halfpenny down, some !!!!!!! had pinched a halfpenny of the threepence."

But the Mess can boast of rather better luck than our unfortunate "Zulu Chief."

When the newly-elected President and Treasurer took over (Jimmy Randall and Ginger Hollands respectively), it was with a much better financial basis than we have had for a considerable time, thanks to social successes achieved in the way of dances and whist drives, by Balby Hamer and Chalky Wright, who recently handed over the above-mentioned offices.

Beneath Bell Harry—Continued.

The muscle experts were to be seen the other day, scraping long bars of Quarter-Master's erasmic into thin threads, immediately questions were being asked of one another as to the reason thereof. Some suggested that they were trying to work their ticket, others, that they were experimenting, preparatory to establishing a large soap manufacturing business in one of the spare cellars in A Block.

But the real solution was provided by Company Detail which warned one N.C.O. and umpteen men for scrubbing out the gymnasium, one knew then that they had been making the well-known soap solution used on this occasion. (Anybody anxious to procure the recipe for same, please apply to Pte. Sandy).

Everybody is busy now preparing for the torchlight tattoo on Albuhera Day.

Nancy makes a very bold Zulu chief, whilst several others are disguised as lamp-posts. A few of old Tug Wilson's stamp, of the 2nd Battalion Mess, would be very handy for this purpose, the nearest approach we have to it is our Bandmaster, alias N.C.O. i/c Sanitation, alias Charlie Collier.

These notes must of necessity be rather short and sweet, as very little of importance has happened this month, but there is promise of more excitement next.

"MUSCLES."

BOXING AT THE DEPOT.**NOVICES' COMPETITION.**

A series of boxing competitions for the recruits of the Buffs' Depot, Canterbury, was held at the Garrison Gymnasium on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. In all there were over 100 fights, and the spectators had full value for their money, for there was some excellent sport throughout. Whatever their degree of skill in the noble art, nobody could deny that the competitors showed the greatest gameness and keenness—sportsmanship which was quite in keeping with the time-honoured traditions of the regiment. There were whirlwind bouts, fights reminiscent of windmills and scraps in which real scientific skill was displayed. Naturally, the standard of boxing improved as the series progressed, and towards the end some really good fights were seen. There was a large audience each evening.

The various competitors belonged to the December, January, February and March Squads, and the winner of each bout scored two points for his squad towards the shield, the loser receiving one point, the squad championship being decided on the percentage system; only the first fight in which each competitor took part counted for points. In the list of results given below, the initial letter of the month is given after the name of each competitor. In the initial stages the bouts were of three one-minute and one two-minute rounds.

The officials were: Referee, Major Guy Lee, D.S.O., M.C. (Commanding the Depot); judges, Capt. H. De R. Morgan, D.S.O., M.C., and Capt. N. D. Rice; time-keeper, R.S.M. P. Dare; M.C., H.S.M.I. Horlock; register keeper, Corpl. H. Hamer; M.O., Capt. S. Smith. The admirable arrangements were made by C.S.M.I. Horlock, A.P.T.S., assisted by the Gymnasium staff.

The results were as follows:—

Feather Weights.

1st Series.—Bygrave (J) beat Pullen (M); Kemsley (J) b Sharp (M); Ward (J) b Yard (M); Day (J) b Chewter (J).
2nd Series.—Blanchard (F) b Drury (D); Blake (F) b Flashman (J); Cherry (F) b Gibbons (D); Davey (F) b Gillis (D); Hook (J) knocked out Diplock (F); Izzard (F) b Pinder (D); Trim (D) b Mannall (F); Measday (F) b Bishop (M); Brown (M) b Nye (F); Britton (M) b Pilcher (F); Cummins (M) ko Tebble (F); Ellen (M) b Taylor (F); Minty (M) b Walton (F); Townend (F) b Marsh (F); Kemsley b Bygrave; Day b Wood.

3rd Series.—Blake ko Blanchard; Cherry b Gillis; Hook b Izzard; Trim ko Measday; Brown b Britton; Cummins b Ellen; Townend b Minty; Kemsley b Day.

4th Series.—Cherry b Blake; Hook ko Trim; Cummins b Brown; Townend b Kemsley.

Semi-finals.—Cherry beat Hook after a hard hitting fight, in which the winner had the better throughout. Townend beat Cummins, the former showing more science and deservedly winning.

Final.—Townend beat Cherry. The latter had both thumbs damaged before he started and was further injured in the fight, but battled pluckily against a scientific adversary. Cherry was later congratulated by the C.O. on a heroic fight.

Light Weights.

1st Series.—Stevenson (J) beat Tanner (F); Cousins (M) b Culver (J); Norris (M) b King (J); Purkiss (M) walk-over; Real (J) b Willoughby (M); Wheeler (J) b Hart (J).

2nd Series.—Bing (F) b Adams (D); Austen (F) b Clifton (D); Wraight (J) b French (F); Mills (D) b Morris (F); Sells (F) b Hollands (D); Stevenson b Cousins; Purkiss b Norris; Real ko Wheeler.

3rd Series.—Bing b Austen; Mills b Wraight, Sells b Stevenson; Real b Purkiss.

Semi-finals.—Mills beat Bing, he being the more scientific boxer; Real beat Sells, the latter putting up a good fight but being outclassed.

Final.—Real knocked out Mills in the second round, Mills previously having shown a disinclination to get to close quarters.

Welter Weights.

1st Series.—Ward (J) absent, Connor (F) walk-over; Nickells (M) b Clinton (F).

2nd Series.—Garrard (J) b Barnes (J); Offen (D) b Bicker (J); Rose (D) b Gower (J); Tritton (D) b Jordan (J); Singleton (M) b Richardson (J); Reynolds (J) b Taylor (F); Button (F) b Peters (J); Connor ko Nickells.

3rd Series.—Garrard b Offen; Rose b Tritton; Reynolds b Singleton; Connor b Button.

Semi-finals.—Garrard had a walk-over, Rose being unfit; Connor knocked out Reynolds.

Final.—Connor knocked out Garrard in the first round.

Bantam Weights.

1st Series.—Styles (F) b Tolhurst (M); Wilson (D) b Wenham (M).

2nd Series.—Billett (M) b Linkens (D); Battell (M) b Fagg (J); Ratcliffe (J) b Long (M); Smith (J) b Murphy (M); Bundock (F) b O'Moore (M); Rashbrook (M) ko Jarvis (F); Simmins (M) b Staples (F); Styles ko Wilson.

3rd Series.—Billett, b Battell; Ratcliffe b Smith; Rashbrook ko Bundock; Styles b Simmins.

Semi-finals.—Billett beat Ratcliffe; Rashbrook beat Styles.

Final.—Rashbrook beat Billett after an average bout.

Middle Weights.

1st Series.—Davis (J) b Fishenden (D); Cartwright (J) b Fagg (F); Bentley (M) b Jenner (F), a good fight; L/c. Bartley (D) b Smith (F).

Semi-finals.—Cartwright knocked out Davis in the second round in a tame encounter; Bentley had a walk-over, Bartley being unfit.

Final.—Bentley knocked out Cartwright in the first round, after showing good in-fighting.

Fly Weights.

1st Series.—Bird (F) b Fishenden (D); a tame fight; Hunter (M) b Wainwright (D), the former doing most of the attacking.

Semi-finals.—Beales beat Amos after a sharp fight full of exchanges; Bird beat Hunter after a good fight in which Bird's longer reach stood him in good stead.

Final.—Bird beat Beales, pursuing the same tactics as in the semi-final, although Beales fought pluckily.

Heavy Weights.

Final.—Skeats beat Maslin after an even fight until the latter stopped an unlucky one in the second round and was saved by time. In the third round Skeats had the advantage throughout.

On Tuesday evening the customary burlesque fight between Bandsman Woods and Sergt. Beales was responsible for much hilarity.

On Wednesday evening there was an exhibition bout between L/Cpl. Gilbert and Pte. Mullinger. Some very good sparring and footwork on Gilbert's part was seen.

At the conclusion, Major Lee thanked the officials and C.S.M.I. Horlock and his A.P.T. Staff, and congratulated the competitors on their sportsmanship, subsequently presenting medals to the finalists.

Three cheers for the C.O. and officers were called for by the R.S.M. with a tiger as an extra, and the Engineer Foreman of Works has since been very anxiously examining the roof.

The championship was won by the March Squad, 79.3 per cent.; 2, January, 74; 3, February, 73.5; December, 72.2.

AN APPRECIATION.

We have received the following appreciation from a well-known local boxing enthusiast:

A very good show and a pity that more local support in the way of spectators was not given. We have seen more scientific boxing, but have not seen more keenly contested encounters—good clean fighting, no kidney punches, pivot blows, hitting low or holding. The boxing was up-to-date, in that right and left swings and half-swings were largely used, but the Long Melford, as George Borrow calls the straight left in Lavengro, told its usual tale when it was brought into action. Great credit is due to the Officer Commanding (Major Lee) and all those connected for making such a success of the competitions.

On Pulling Together

We would appeal to all readers to back, whenever and wherever they can, the firms which are backing our venture with their advertisements. These houses are all of high reputation and they display sound commodities which are at all times in greater or less request. And please mention "The Dragon" when giving your order.

The 4th Battalion.



MUSKETRY.
SINCE Easter, when the majority of the Battalion turned out under canvas for training, companies have, for the most part, been devoting their energies to musketry training in preparation for firing the annual course.

Dover has already commenced and from now onwards recruits and trained men will be spending their Sunday mornings on the various ranges allotted to the Battalion. We are fortunate this year in having obtained permission for Folkestone to fire on the Lydden Sports' Range. Last year they fired at Hythe, this was most inconvenient, as the Hythe bye-laws did not allow Sunday Shooting. Dover, as before, will fire on the Fanhole range, "A" Coy., at Birchington, "B" Coy., at Teynham and "C" Coy., at Brewers' Wood.

It is sincerely hoped that all men will have been put through before the Battalion goes to camp, so that the first part of the bounty may be paid out immediately on arrival at Seaford.

CAMP.

Already, preparations are being made for annual training. We are camping this year in the Blatlington Estate with the other two Kent battalions. This will be nearer the town than last year, and from the point of view of playing grounds will also, it is hoped, be an improvement. All ranks are again reminded of the dates, July 13th to 27th, in order that they may make the necessary preparations to get away. Neither of our own Doctors can accompany us this year. Lt.-Col. C. W. Ponder, R.A.M.C., will however, be our M.O.

Approximate numbers attending are required early at B.H.Q. The reason being that the 4th Buffs eat so much beef in camp that the A.S.C. have to make special purchases, and our indents must be in six weeks beforehand!

Two Companies have already asked permission to go to Seaford by motor-bus rather than undertake the tedious journey via London with at least three changes. This will no doubt be granted, provided the cost is not greatly in excess. Other preparations include getting the band together, re-painting the drums, hiring horses and the provision this year of uniform swagger canes and khaki blanco. The Sergeants' Mess are making a great effort to be the most up-to-date mess in camp, and have purchased a complete new set of blue and gold crockery, whilst all their members are being fitted out with blue patrols.

STRENGTH.

Recruits are still joining in small numbers. Actually to-day, we are 595, only 41 short of establishment and still the strongest Battalion in the Command. One little last effort all round and we shall go to camp with a waiting list. Come along everybody, only 41 more are wanted.

W.

SITTINGBOURNE COMPANY.

All ranks wish a speedy recovery to Mrs. Dean who has recently undergone an operation for appendicitis. The company, combined with "A" Company from Margate,

Ramsgate and Herne Bay, enjoyed a very good camp at Easter for four days, which was held at Birchington under the command of Capt. D. J. Dean, V.C. The weather being ideal all helped to make what it was a great success. We were visited for two of the days by the Adjutant, who also we believed, enjoyed himself, especially as there was some very interesting schemes carried out.

On Easter Sunday some very interesting shooting took place on the range, including a demonstration with Lewis Gun Fire and Rifle Section Fire at Falling Iron Plates, the following results being obtained: Rifle Section (20 Rifles) at 49 plates of which only 8 plates were left standing. Lewis Gun Section at the same target had 26 plates standing. With combined sights of two Lewis Guns and 20 Rifles at 47 plates, only 12 were left standing. The fire effect of the rifle section stood out alone, and also impressed on the on-lookers, the majority of whom were recruits, the value of a well-handled rifle or gun sections in action.

The messing arrangements were in the hands of R.Q.M.S. Arnold, and all ranks will agree that it could not have been better, for during the whole four days there was not one complaint, so our thanks are due to our R.Q.M.S. for the way in which he looked after us all.

THE WEALD COMPANY.

What a very wet and cold time we have had this April and the beginning of this month at present not much better. Little outdoor work can be done until a change comes. We hope to hold our first Week-end Camp on June 14th and 15th at Sissinghurst Castle by kind permission of Capt. T. B. Cheesman. These Camps proved very popular last year and it is hoped that they will help the outstations with their Drills.

The Colonel paid us a visit on 6th May and seemed pleased with the improvements and general appearance of the H.Q. Drill Hall. Although only a small number were present he witnessed a good bayonet fighting squad and the young N.C.O. instruction class at work.

Brewers Wood Range is ready for work at last and Musketry will start in earnest very soon. C.Q.M.S. Nash is going on a two day course for N.C.O.'s of his rank at Hounslow. We are always glad when a member of the company can spare some of his valuable time to attend instruction such as this as it all goes to help the efficiency of the Company.

The O.C. Company returned from a ten days' course at The Depot Canterbury on 2nd May. We understand that, though a short course, he was able to put in several extra hours and learnt a lot. The instruction was excellent and he seems to have enjoyed himself a great deal. It is always interesting to hear of old members of the company. Corporal Ward, now a regular soldier again, is a mess waiter at the Depot.

The Weald Company would like to congratulate Captain and Mrs. Cremer on the birth of a son and heir. Most of the members of the Company remember Captain Cremer who commanded 'D' Company of the 5th Battalion The Buffs D.F.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

1. Cook for Camp in August and September.
2. House Parlour-man and Gardener at Broadstairs.
3. Butler-valet.
4. Married Couple, Butler and Cook-General.
5. Cook, widow of an ex-Buff preferred, one child, no objection.
6. Married Couple as Steward and Cook, East Kent Club, Canterbury.
7. Married Couple for Philadelphia, 50 dollars a month, wife as cook, husband general duties.

How to get "The Dragon."

FOR those wishing to receive the paper direct through the post each month, the rates of subscription are:—
 1 year 8/-, 6 months 4/-, 3 months 2/-.

Remittances should be sent to the Editor, Depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

Correspondence.

LONDON.

JUDGING from the following letter, our correspondent must be having the time of his life!

Dear Mr. Editor,

The invasion of London has begun! The streets are full of visitors who speak with a quaint accent, and are clothed in a fashion that makes one turn and stare! The entertainment world is 'sitting up and taking notice,' and to 'wemble' is becoming a household word.

The diversity of taste displayed by the occasional visitor, together with the number and excellence of the entertainments provided, makes one hesitate to recommend any one item more than another. I feel, however, that I must mention "Havoc" (a play dealing with the war), now running at the Haymarket. It is a play so unlike any other we have seen; a play with an 'atmosphere,' a play that revives distinctly unpleasant recollections (some of the scenes take place during the March '18 retreat), a play in which you will not fail to recognise many of the 'characters' of your own unit. Leslie Faber, who served with distinction as a Lieut.-Colonel during the war, is excellent in the principal part of a company commander. The only military character which strikes one as overdrawn is that of the C.S.M. This individual spends most of his time cadging drinks from officers (a habit that appeared to amuse the audience!). The Haymarket is one of the, alas, too few theatres where pit seats—as good as most stalls—may be booked two hours before the commencement of the performance.

Of the Revues, "Leap Year" at the Hippodrome, and "The Whirl of the World" at the Palladium, contain something to appeal to every taste. The most popular musical play is "Madame Pompadour." Any show that has run for three months or more is worth a visit.

Wembley has captivated me. It is really more wonderful than I had imagined possible. Do not wait to visit it until it is finished—it never can be! Its alleged 'unfinished' state will in no way interfere with your pleasure; having paid one visit, you will undoubtedly want to go again and again! If, however, your time is limited, go straight to the Colonial Section. Every part of our Empire, except the Irish Free State, has something of interest to show you, presented in a most attractive form. It is the 'local colour' that appealed so much to me. On no account must you omit to take a stroll through Hong-Kong, or wander over West Africa. The efficient transport arrangements, from all parts of London to the Exhibition, have brought India within half-an-hour's run of Piccadilly?

Food is always a delicate problem; to the man with a moderate purse, any of Lyons' 'Corner Houses' give good value. For those who are prejudiced against 'our Joe,' and would prefer the 'Ritz' or the 'Berkley' the 'Florence' in Rupert Street, or 'The Pall Mall' in the Haymarket, provide excellent fare. The number of people who patronize restaurants and hotels is increasing, every new place that is opened seems crowded. Perhaps this is due to the servant problem! Are you a dance fiend? Most of the larger restaurants cater for you—if your appetite is of secondary importance, let me recommend the New Olympia annexe.

You may see a really good film in comfort at the new 'Tivoli' in the Strand, or the 'Rialto' in Coventry Street.

The Military Tournament opens on May 22nd, a stirring show for an excellent cause; I can never understand why there is a single vacant seat!

Notwithstanding the advent of a Socialist Government, entertaining, charity shows, etc., go on as much as ever: London looks more prosperous than it has done for some time past and is quite a good place to be in, funds permitting.

Yours very truly,

R.I.M.

PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATION.

Dear Sir,

Having seen an announcement in the London paper this morning desiring Old Buffs to join their Regimental Association, I would be pleased if you would send me full particulars of the same. I am an old 1st Battalion man, joined the Depot at Canterbury on June 9th, 1896, served with 2nd Battalion at Kilkenny and Waterford and with 1st Battalion in India, Burma, and Aden; transferred to Reserve from Aden in March, 1904; have since been to Canada, where I met many old 1st Battalion men, all doing well and all of whom, including myself, joined up with the Canadian Forces during the war. Wishing luck to the Old Regiment,

I remain,

1 Elm Bank,
Bull Road,
Rayleigh,
Essex.

Yours truly,

HARRY HASTIE,
late Pte. 5061,
1st Battalion The Buffs.

May 11th, 1924.

P.S. Kindly let me know if *The Dragon* is still in circulation.

RE-UNIONS.

Dear Sir,

As time awaits no one and the months are slipping past, Cricket Week will be upon us before we know where we are! I have noticed in this journal, from time to time, comments as to the scarcity of ex-members of the 2nd Battalion at various functions. The Committee have, no doubt, gone to a deal of trouble to arrange for the Depot Week and Dinner to take place before the Canterbury Cricket Week and so make a good fortnight's holiday with a round of amusement for our old comrades, who I am sure will be glad of such a change after a year of toil. I do hope and trust that as many as possible will make an effort to be present and renew old acquaintance, which should never be forgotten, and in this I would appeal to old comrades of the 2nd Battalion. Of course I am but a nondescript as far as membership is concerned as I had but a few years' service in the Battalion—through no fault of my own—still I was a member and I do not lose sight of the fact. Peradventure, some do not see *The Dragon*. May I ask those who do, to make the above known to every ex-2nd Battalion man they meet!

Yours, etc.,

W. A. WHITMORE WHITFORD,
late 2nd Battalion.

WEMBLEY.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find cheque for 15/- being my subscription for *The Dragon* for 1924; please accept my apologies for not having paid it before.

I am on the London Committee of the Gold Coast Section B.E.E. at Wembley and shall be in that Section every day and will be only too pleased to show any "Buffs" round.

Yours truly,

R. D. W. TUKES,

Captain.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

Messrs. Furley & Page,
St. Margaret's Street,
Canterbury.

8 Cheriton Place,
Folkestone.

Dear Sirs,

Past and Present Association "The Buffs."

We observe in the Handbook, recently circulated, that you are Honorary Solicitors to the Association.

We have a vacancy for an Articled Clerk, and if we can assist by taking the son of an Officer's widow at a reduced Premium, we shall be pleased to do so. By "reduced," we mean, say £52 10s. 0d., our standard Premium being not less than £315.

This offer might be of assistance to someone.

Yours faithfully,
ATKINSON & STAINER.

ANOTHER KIND OFFER.

Dear Sir,

Mrs. Richford of Summerhill, Headcorn, has a hand propelled (double lever) invalid chair to dispose of, for which she would be glad to receive offers.

The chair cost £40 new, but she would sell it cheaply to a disabled ex-Buff. It has been very little used and is in almost new condition. The body is wicker, upholstered in leather. The chair runs on three wheels fitted with pneumatic tyres. Any reader who may be interested, should write to me, or direct to Mrs. Richford.

Sunnyside, Kent. Yours truly,
Headcorn, CHAS. P. KINGSLAND,
Major, (late 5th Battalion The Buffs).

28TH DIVISION.

Dear Sir,

The next Annual Dinner of the 28th Division officers will take place on Friday, 13th June, at the Trocadero.

At the last dinner of the 16th Corps the Regiment was only represented by Colonel Barnard and myself.

I feel sure that many would come if they knew others would be there and though it may be presumption on my part, I am making a special effort to get as many as possible to attend this time.

Every time I attend these functions, I thoroughly enjoy myself and am asked after the welfare of any number of others of our Mess whom I am only too anxious to meet myself.

I could probably provide a bed for one or two country members if they will let me know.

36 Amptihill Square, London, N.W. 1. Yours truly,
S. B. DONALD,
Captain.

ONCE A BUFF, ETC.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed cheque with form completed.

I served with the 1st Battalion in India for 15 years and was Adjutant of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion during the Great War. Both of my sons served; one gained the M.C. and was S.S.O. 3 at the Machine Gun Training Centre after having served with the British Military Mission to America. The other is still serving with the Indian Army and was recently mentioned in despatches for service in Waziristan. They were both born in the Regiment so I look upon them as Buffs.

Malakns, Walsley Road, Yours sincerely,
Broadstairs, J. G. SMITH.

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA ASSOCIATION.

April 28th, 1924.

Dear Sir,

If you could have been in the hall during our dinner and heard the tumultuous applause which greeted

the receiving of your telegram of congratulations and good wishes for all ranks, past and present, of the Buffs' Association, you would have felt that the bond which binds your Regiment and our Regiment together, was a very real thing indeed.

I cabled you back as follows:—"A thousand strong we thank you with fraternal greetings and pride in our affiliation" (Sgd.) Queen's Own. I sent this cable at 1 a.m. on the 27th and I hope it has reached you safely.

I am sending you at once a copy of our booklet and am asking our Secretary to forward five extra copies for distribution.

With many thanks and heartiest appreciation of your thoughtfulness, believe me,

Yours sincerely,
A. E. KIRKPATRICK.

(On receipt the booklet will be sent to Battalions and The Depot. We have seen a copy which is full of interest and very well produced. Editor).

PAST AND PRESENT.

The Secretary, Buffs' Association.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly give me information re above. I enlisted in 2nd Battalion, 1876, was shipwrecked with Battalion near Capetown; served throughout the Zulu War and was invalided from Reserve, Colonel C. K. Pearson, and oblige,

Reed Hut, Essex. Yours truly,
Small Gains, EDWARD DUNKIN,
Canvey, No. 582 Bandsman,
Essex. 2nd Battalion The Buffs.

Balances of Deceased Soldiers.

THE following amounts are available for distribution amongst the next-of-kin (or others entitled) of those Buffs whose names are given.

Applications from persons supposing themselves as next-of-kin should be addressed by letter to "The Secretary, War Office, London, S.W. 1," and marked outside "Effects."

	£	s.	d.
Pte. J. Cairney	22	9	3
" H. Evans	34	18	1
" C. F. Sedgwick	5	9	0
" E. C. Sedgwick	2	4	6
" T. Jackson	6	18	1
" A. Shaill	1	18	1
" G. S. Burke	12	5	2
Lt./Cpl. E. Collins	8	0	0
Pte. C. W. H. Harris	7	7	0
" J. Sallèse	6	17	1
" H. Woods	2	16	1
" W. T. Purdie	5	13	4

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Matters of Interest.

ALBUHERA DAY.

Extract from The Star, 23rd October, 1811.

The gallant Lieutenant Latham, of the 3rd or Old Buffs, who so nobly distinguished himself in Portugal, and saved one of the colours of that regiment at the battle of Albuhera, notwithstanding that he was attacked and most cruelly wounded by four Polish Lancers, is arrived in Ireland, and is now at the seat of Oliver Latham, Esq. of Hellen Park, County Tipperary. He is in good spirits, and is daily recovering his health and strength.

BATTLE HONOURS.

A further list of Battle Honours awarded for the Great War was issued yesterday (Friday) by the War Office. The list comprises the awards made to 12 Infantry Regiments, including 4 London Regiments. The awards are as follows, those which have been selected to be borne on Colours or Appointments being printed in capitals:—

THE BUFFS (EAST KENT REGIMENT).

16 Battalions.

" ARMENTIERES, 1914," " YPRES, 1915, '17," " Gravenstafel," " St. Julien," " Frezenberg," " Bellewaarde," " Hooge, 1915," " Loos," " Somme, 1916, '18," " Albert, 1916, '18," " Bazentin," " Delville Wood," " Pozieres," " Flers-Courcelette," " Morval," " Thiepval," " Le Transloy," " Anore Heights," " Ancre, 1916, '18," " ARRAS, 1917," " Scarpe, 1917," " Messines, 1917," " Pilckem," " Passchendaele," " Cambrai, 1917, '18," " St. Quentin," " AMIENS," " Bapaume, 1918," " HINDENBURG LINE," " Epethy," " St. Quentin Canal," " Selle," " Sambre," " France and Flanders, 1914-18," " STRUMA," " Doiran, 1918," " Macedonia, 1915-18," " Gaza," " JERUSALEM," " Tell Asur," " Palestine, 1917-18," " Aden," " Tigris, 1916," " Kut al Amara, 1917," " BAGHDAD," " Mesopotamia, 1915-18."

COMBATANT COMMISSIONS FOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Regulations under which non-commissioned officers of the Regular Army may be granted combatant commissions as second lieutenants have now been issued. Commissions as second lieutenant in the Cavalry, Infantry, Royal Tank Corps, and Royal Army Service Corps of the British Service will be granted to regular non-commissioned officers who, fulfilling the conditions specified, undergo a satisfactory course of training for 18 months at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. The number of candidates admitted to Sandhurst each half-year will vary according to the requirements of the service and will be announced in Army Orders from time to time. To be eligible for recommendation by his Commanding Officer for admission to Sandhurst, a candidate must be medically fit, hold an Army First Class Certificate of Education, be at least an unpaid lance-corporal and have held that appointment for six months prior to 1st January or 1st July, as the case may be, of the year in which he is recommended, and be under 23 years of age on 1st January or 1st July (as the case may be). A candidate who has qualified for admission to the Royal Military Academy, the Royal Military College, or the Royal Air Force Cadet College, or has passed the First Public Examination at the University of Oxford or the equivalent examination at any other approved university, will be exempt from obtaining an Army First Class Certificate. No candidate will be recommended unless his Commanding Officer certifies that he has been employed in a capacity where he has shown power of leadership,

and all recommendations received at the War Office will be considered together and a selection up to the required number will be made according to the merits of the candidates. Non-commissioned officers on joining the College, will be called "gentlemen cadets" and will be under the control of the Commandant, and while at Sandhurst, will be entitled to pay, but not to rations or allowances, and service as a cadet will count as service in the ranks for purposes of computing pension.

COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

New offers to University Men and Territorial Officers.

Active steps are now being taken by the Army Council to give effect to such of the recommendations of Lord Haldane's Committee on the education of officers as have been approved in principle, and, otherwise, to make service in the Regular Army increasingly attractive to young men of ability and ambition. Regulations which will be issued within the next few weeks will open five channels through which aspirants for commissions may enter the Army and obtain the necessary technical training.

The Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, will continue to offer the best opportunities for boys who, whilst still at school, have made up their minds to be officers. Commencing in June, 1925, those who are 18 and not more than 19 years of age may compete for admission to the Academy or the College at the half-yearly Army Entrance Examinations, and as the courses of instruction are limited to 18 months, the majority of the successful aspirants should gain their commissions before they reach the age of 20.

A second method of entry will be through approved Universities; and 100 commissions a year are to be offered to candidates who choose this method. The age of University candidates must not be under 21 or above 24; but the regulations will permit of commissions granted to such candidates being antedated on a liberal scale for the purposes of seniority, without prejudice to the interests of cadets in the Military Colleges. Those who, though intellectually qualified, are debarred on account of age from entering Sandhurst or Woolwich, will thus be able to attain commissioned rank without disadvantage.

Another significant feature of the new regulations is the provision made for the offer of approximately 65 commissions a year to officers of the Territorial Army, and of a like number to be given through the Supplementary Reserve. For the present, the commissions given to Territorial Officers will be limited to the Cavalry, Infantry, Royal Tank Corps, and Royal Army Service Corps, and the regulations will require that a Territorial Officer who desires a commission must have completed his initial course and two annual trainings, be between 21 and 25 years of age, have been attached for a period to a unit in the Regular Army, hold the O.T.C. Certificate "A" and have passed the same final examinations as the cadets from Sandhurst. The conditions governing the grant of commissions through the Supplementary Reserve will be similar to these governing the commissions given through the Territorial Army, but details in regard to the scheme cannot be published until the Supplementary Reserve itself is officially formed.

A fifth way of approach to commissions will be through the ranks. Selected N.C.O.'s not exceeding the age of 23, and up to the number of 30 a year, will be admitted to Sandhurst, and undergo the same course of instruction as other cadets.

Detailed information on all these points may be obtained from the Under Secretary of State (S.D. 3.), War Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1. But applications for commissions through the Territorial Army and through the Supplementary Reserve will not be considered until the new regulations have been issued.

TERRITORIAL ARMY SHOOTING.

Lord Tredegar's Challenge Cup.

A Challenge Cup has been presented by Lord Tredegar, Hon. Colonel, 1st Battalion The Monmouthshire Regiment, for competition among units of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, Territorial Army. The Cup will be awarded to that unit which obtains the highest shooting aggregate with all the infantry weapons, or, in other words, which obtains the highest aggregate in the following Competitions (which are open to the whole Territorial Army):—

Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Shield for Unit Rifle Teams; High Sheriff's Challenge Shield for Squadron, Battery, or Company Rifle Teams; B.S.A. Guns, Ltd.; Challenge Trophy for Recruit Teams of 8 from a Squadron, Battery, or Company; Lewis Gun and Hotchkiss Gun Cup for Squadron, Battery, or Company Teams of 6; and Machine Gun Trophy for Machine Gun Platoon Teams of 4. The 6th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers are the present holders of the High Sheriff's Challenge Shield and of the B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., Challenge Trophy.

Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich.

APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING ESTATE.

The Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich is prepared to receive applications for the appointment of an Officer in connection with the Council's Housing Estate (Grade "C") in the Town Clerk's Department, at a commencing salary at the rate of £190 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to £300 per annum, together with the current Civil Service Bonus, which at the present time, on the commencing salary, amounts to £109 10s. per annum.

Applicants must be between the ages of 35 and 50 years, must have had experience in dealing with house property, and will be required, amongst other duties, to report upon and supervise repairs to the houses and flats belonging to the Council, under the control of the Town Clerk. Preference will be given to those who have had experience in connection with Municipal or other similar Housing Estates.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Council's Superannuation Act, and to the terms and conditions laid down in the scheme for the recruitment, conditions of service and rates of pay of officers, adopted by the Council on the 6th June, 1923. Applications must be in the handwriting of the applicants on forms to be obtained from the undersigned, and must be accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials; such applications to be sealed and endorsed "Grade 'C' Clerk, Town Clerk's Department," and must be received here not later than 10 a.m. on MONDAY, the 2nd June, 1924. The appointment will be terminable by one month's notice on either side. Canvassing members of the Council, either directly or indirectly will be a disqualification.

Stamped addressed foolscap envelope must accompany application for form.

FREDERICK J. SIMPSON,
Town Clerk.

The Town Hall,
Greenwich-road, S.E. 10.
9th May, 1924.

The Kentish Mercury, May, 16th, 1924.

STAFF COLLEGE VACANCIES.

A Competitive Examination for 37 vacancies in the Staff College, Camberley, will be held in February, and March, 1925, for the course commencing in January, 1926. Of these vacancies, 12 will be allotted to the Infantry, 6 each to the Indian Army and Forces of the Overseas Dominions, 5 to the Royal Artillery, 2 each to the Cavalry and Royal Engineers, and 1 each to the Corps of Signals permanent officers), Tank Corps, Royal Army Service Corps, and Royal Marines. In addition the Army Council will offer about 18 vacancies to be filled from the British Army, the Indian Army, and the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force by nomination. Officers of the British and Indian Armies, in order to become eligible for nomination, must qualify in the obligatory subjects at the entrance examination.

GIFT TO KENT BOY SCOUTS.

Mr. J. Wheeler-Bennett, the High Sheriff of Kent, has given a donation of one thousand guineas to form a nucleus for an endowment fund for the development of the Boy Scout movement in the county. The following have consented to be trustees of this fund:— Lord Camden, Lord Waring, Mr. Copley D. Hewitt, and Mr. A. J. Tassell.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

Another Increase of Recruiting.

The latest returns of recruiting for the Territorial Army show that during March, 3,841 men were finally approved for service, an average of over 900 a week. The best return was made by the Northern Command in which 1,046 men were approved, while the Western Command came second with 870 and the Scottish Command third with 772. During the seven months ending on 30th April, the enlistments in all commands numbered 17,374.

The total Territorial strength, exclusive of permanent staff, on the 1st instant was 144,305, distributed as follows:—

Northern Command	...	31,482
Western Command	...	31,442
Scottish Command	...	22,588
Southern Command	...	21,272
Eastern Command	...	20,498
London District	...	17,023

Total ... 144,305

The Divisions with the greatest strength in officers and other ranks are now as follows:—The Highland, 9,548; The Welsh, 9,431; Northumbrian, 9,335; The West Lancashire, 9,024; The North Midland, 9,018; The West Riding, 8,944; East Lancashire, 8,928.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Jacobs.—On April 19th, at 62 Biddulph Road, Elgin Avenue, London, W. 9, the wife of Captain Ivan A. Jacobs, M.C., (late 7th The Buffs) the gift of a daughter, Nan Primrose.

Weeds.—At Portland, to the wife of Private L. Weeds, 2nd Battalion The Buffs, a daughter (Pearl).

MARRIAGES.

Torre—Holland.—On the 19th April, at Christ Church, Eastbourne, E. W. Torre, late Lance-Corporal, 1st Battalion, The Buffs, to Ethel Grace Holland.

DEATH.

Hailstone.—7578958 A/S/Sgt. O. Hailstone, "H.O.," Son (Cyril Roy), died at Gibraltar, 15-4-1924. (R.A.O.C.) attached.

Pig-Sticking in Morocco.

ONE bright sunny morning in January, R. and I started off on our trip to Tangier where we were to get two days' pig-sticking. For days beforehand we had been reading up all about this "King of Sports." Various kind members of the Mess were sympathetic and ready with all kinds of advice. Some suggested we should take our revolvers with us; others related stories they had heard of fatal accidents in bygone years, so that by the time we started, we were buoyed up to a pitch of great excitement.

The journey over to Tangier by a small Bland ship was quite uneventful; it only took four hours on a beautifully calm day.

At Tangier we had to land in motor launches owing to there not being sufficient water for our ship to go alongside the one miserable jetty. How we got ashore goodness only knows. Everybody tried to get down the gangway at the same time. It was a case of every man, woman or child for himself. However, we eventually got ashore and through the Customs under the guidance of our good host who was a member of the British Legation there.

R. and I put up at one of the hotels while the rest of the party stayed with our host. We went to bed that night full of expectations for what the next day would bring forth.

The next morning we were up with the lark, booted and spurred and ready for anything. The order of the day was that we should motor to the meet about 20 miles inland behind Cape Spartel and pick up our horses which were lent by the French International Police.

We started off in a ramshackle old car which I personally thought would never get there, but I soon changed my opinion as we simply flew along a very bad road at break-neck speed. I was glad when we got to the rendezvous where we duly found a small posse of native police looking very smart in their scarlet jackets and enormous blue baggy trousers.

On our journey out we passed a sorry looking nag being flogged along the road by a small Moorish boy. R., who was always a pessimist, remarked that he was certain that horse would be the one allotted to him and sure enough it was.

At the rendezvous we saw no signs of the remainder of the party, but that didn't daunt us in the least; we all assured each other that they would turn up at any moment. We then proceeded to draw lots for the choice of ponies. I had third pick and selected a nice quiet looking grey, at least I thought he was quiet. R., of course, had the last pick and had to take what was left over, *i.e.*, the pony we had passed on the road which turned up after a bit. Soon after, it started to rain and still no signs of the rest of the party.

The rendezvous had been chosen in a most desolate spot by the road-side with not a house or human being in sight. Nevertheless we kept on telling each other that the rain would soon pass over and the rest of the party would turn up. We actually waited there two hours while the rain came on harder and harder until it developed into a tropical downpour. The Police were very kind and insisted on us putting on their long flowing burnouses. At last the others arrived, having had two punctures on the way out.

C., our host, then addressed us on the main points of pig-sticking. The pièce de résistance of his address was that we were out to stick pig and not our fellow sportsman; apparently he had learnt that from bitter experience.

By this time we were not quite so cheerful as we were when we started, especially myself, when I saw the enormous spear that was handed to me. I mounted

my quiet looking nag which immediately galvanised into activity and bounded off in the direction of the Atlantic about five miles off.

The country was undulating and covered with a kind of prickly scrub. My steed went off like a large buck which has been frightened; he bounded over bushes and swerved round others, so that it was impossible to know which he was going to do next—jump or swerve. I gave up all hope of sticking any pig, but instead, concentrated on clinging on and keeping the point of my spear to the front, not an easy thing to do as we went through a patch of wood where the branches of the trees did their best to wrench the spear from my hands or turn the point to the rear. In five minutes I was in a muck sweat. R., I lost sight of until we came up with the beaters, a wretched looking lot of Moors dressed in brown rags and armed with every conceivable kind of ancient weapon.

We then moved off to our positions about a mile from seashore in two "heats" of three and four each.

One of the party, N., of the Guards, had a very fine, large, bristling moustache of which he was very proud. By this time, instead of turning up, it was drooping down so that he looked exactly like a walrus which had just risen from the sea for a breath of fresh air.

When we got into position, one of our heat, who had been out pig-sticking for several years, added to the gaiety of the party by saying that two spears last year had been thrown at this spot and their horses badly galled. What a life!

I think we must have sat in the pouring rain for another half hour without anything happening until our host decided it was no use. So we rode the six miles back to the cars where we partook of our sandwiches. Mine had been turned in my pocket into a sodden wet mass.

R., on the way home, cheered us all up by remarking that he bet there wouldn't be any hot water in the baths when we got back to the hotel. He was always right—there was not any. We managed to raise enough for one tepid bath so we tossed who was to go in first. R. lost as he had predicted; by that time he was speechless. So ended our first day's pig-sticking.

P.R.H.F.



THE 51st ANNUAL DINNER

of the

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on

Wednesday, 18th June, 1924, at 7.45 p.m.

MINIATURES.

R.S.V.P. to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, The Buffs, Canterbury.

Regimental Gazette.

Officers.

G.S.O.; THIRD GRADE.—The notification in the Gazette of Jan. 1, regarding Capt. R. M. Watson, The Buffs, is cancelled.

Major F. G. F. L. Gould, h.p. list, late The Buffs, retires on ret. pay on account of ill-health contracted on active service (April 20).

Capt. and Bt. Maj. F. Whitaker, M.C., is sec'd. for serv. on the Staff (April 1); Capt. C. S. Field, O.B.E., is rest'd. to the estab. (April 1); Cpt. C. S. F. Witts, from T.A. Res., to be Capt. with precedence as from July 28, 1921 (Jan. 12).

The 1st Battalion.

EMBARKATION.

The undermentioned embarked at Gibraltar 4-4-1924, per *H.T. Glengorm Castle*, en route for U.K., for reasons stated:—
6188637 Sgt. A. Daisley, M.M., "A," Tour of duty at Depot.
6278072 Sgt. R. Legge, "D," Vocational Course, Catterick.
6279373 Sgt. G. Galloway, M.M., "C," Vocational Course, Hounslow.

6280084 L/Sgt. W. Palmer, "D," Vocational Course, Hounslow.
6279239 L/c. T. Riddles, "H.Q.," Transfer to Army Reserve.
6278734 Pte. H. Gates, "H.Q.," Transfer to Army Reserve.
6280341 Pte. F. Evans, "H.Q.," Transfer to Army Reserve.
6279920 Pte. P. Andrews, "H.Q.," Discharge.
6281517 Pte. A. Lippingwell, "H.Q.," Discharge.
6281522 Boy C. Webb, "H.Q.," Discharge.
6281467 Pte. M. Hyland, "B," Discharge.
6278784 Pte. H. Holley, "D," Discharge.
6281152 Pte. H. Peck, "D," Discharge.
6281658 Pte. C. W. Smith, "A," Discharge.
6280004 Pte. A. Waterton, "A," Invalid.
1665400 Pte. C. Hill, "A," Invalid.
5987647 Pte. A. Howard, "D," Invalid.
6281488 Pte. F. Johnson, "D," Invalid.

DISCHARGE.

6278786 Cpl. J. Wilcox, "H.Q.," Embarked at Gibraltar on 27-4-1924, per s.s. *Mahua*, to attend course of instruction assembling at the Machine Gun School, Netherhaven, 2-5-1924.
6278284 Cpl. W. J. Jones, "H.Q.," Discharged under para. 363 (xxi) King's Regs.: confirmed:—14-4-1924.

HIGHER RATE OF PAY.

The following are granted higher rates of pay on dates as shown:—
6281645 Pte. H. Ditton, "D," 15-6-1922.
6281553 Pte. A. Moat, "B," 1-4-1924.
6281554 Pte. A. Patterson, "B," 1-4-1924.
6281555 Pte. E. Farbrace, "A," 1-4-1924.
6281558 Pte. C. Pinnis, "A," 6-4-1924.
6393077 L/c. J. Cook, "B," 21-4-1924.
6281578 Pte. J. Suter, "C," 19-4-1924.
6281579 Pte. A. Bradley, "C," 20-4-1924.
6393010 Pte. J. Elliott, "C," 21-4-1924.
6280931 Pte. J. Collard, "D," 12-4-1924.
6281577 Pte. A. Bartlett, "D," 21-4-1924.
6281580 Pte. J. Walker, "D," 22-4-1924.
6281581 Pte. A. Hird, "D," 22-4-1924.
6281531 Pte. J. Morrison, "C," 19-4-1924.

PROFICIENCY PAY.

6279665 Pte. H. Sones, "D," Proficiency Pay restored from 28-3-1924 to 30-6-1924.

TRANSFER.

6281664 L/c. (Spr.) S. C. Pile, "B," transferred to the Royal Engineers, 7-4-1924.

APPOINTMENTS.

6281149 Pte. L. Crouch, "D" and 6278761 Pte. H. Goodsell, "D," appointed Unpaid Lance-Corporals, 8-4-1924.
6278078 Pte. H. Boot, "H.Q.," 6278635 Pte. H. Morley, "H.Q.," 6279184 Pte. A. Clifton, "H.Q.," and 6281043 Pte. G. Taylor, "H.Q.," appointed Bandsmen to complete establishment, 28-4-1924.

CERTIFICATES OF EDUCATION.

The following qualified for 2nd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Gibraltar on 12-4-1924, by passing in Map Reading only. They failed in this subject at an examination held on 17-12-23. The date of award of certificates is April 19th, 1924:—
6278665 L/c. E. Curtis, "H.Q.," 6278884 Pte. A. Pointer, "D";
6281712 Pte. H. Ford, "D"; 6281289 Pte. A. Barrell, "C";
6279301 Pte. L. Moore, "D"; 6278751 L/c. H. Goodsell, "D";
6281608 Pte. Chittenden, "D";

The following obtained 3rd Class Certificates of Education at an examination held at Gibraltar on 4th April, 1924. The date of award of certificates is April 4th, 1924.

A COMPANY.

7337418 Pte. F. Longhurst, 167167 Pte. G. Edwards, 6278692 Pte. A. Stone, 6279319 Pte. G. Dunk, 7144667 Pte. R. Crowhurst, 6279203 Pte. F. Coombs, 6281095 Pte. F. Brooks, 6281399 Pte. J. Pelham, 6281623 Pte. C. Smith.

B COMPANY.

6280867 Pte. T. Williams, 6279248 Pte. A. Wakelin, 6280711 Pte. S. Keeler, 6279692 Pte. T. Owen.

C COMPANY.

6280758 Pte. W. Harris, 6281807 Pte. T. Burrows, 6280180 Pte. A. Cripps, 6280217 Pte. A. Wickham, 6280000 Pte. R. Latham.

D COMPANY.

6281491 Pte. A. Sinstead, 6281695 Pte. G. Hales, 6281492 L/V. A. Hudson, 7279912 Pte. R. Quelch, 6279909 Pte. P. White, 6279913 Pte. F. Perkins, 6278656 Pte. W. Parker, 6278742 L/c. D. Daley.

HEADQUARTER WING.

6281425 Boy W. Apps, 6278667 Pte. H. Glover, 6280235 Drm. C. Mantelow, 6280030 Pte. F. Richards, 6281020 Pte. S. Haydon, 6280990 Drm. W. Sinclair, 6279256 Pte. J. Benry, 6278751 Pte. F. Roe.

The 2nd Battalion.

STRENGTH-INCREASE.

Recruit Boy Sandom, attested at Canterbury for 2nd Battalion, 24-4-24.
6282215 Pte. Farrell, 6282228 Pte. Langdon, 6279851 Pte. Sharp, joined Battalion from Depot, 26-4-24.

STRENGTH-DECREASE.

6278633 Bds. Edwards, discharged 23-4-24.
6281643 Pte. Mullinger, posted to Regtl. Depot, Canterbury, 23-4-24.
6278636 Pte. Greenland, transferred to Army Reserve, 24-4-24.
6281833 Pte. Bailey, transferred to 16th Pack Battery, R.G.A., 14-4-24.
594385 Pte. Dove, transferred to 1st Battalion Beds. and Herts. Regt., 14-4-24.

EDUCATION.

The undermentioned men were awarded 3rd Class Certificates at Canterbury, March, '24:—
6282224 Pte. C. Payne, 6282192 Pte. S. Weaving.

OFFICERS.

Capt. E. H. Allen, posted to Battalion, 2-5-24 and posted to "B" Company.

The Depot.

RE-ENGAGEMENTS.

6278391 Sgt. G. S. Fawcett, 6278352 Dmr. J. Simpson.

DISCHARGES.

6282330 Pte. F. Measday, 6282304 Pte. J. Culver, 6282271 Pte. A. Hart, 6280004 Pte. A. Waterton, 1685400 Pte. C. Hill, 6281438 Pte. F. Johnson.

ATTACHMENTS.

6279836 Pte. E. Wallace (4th Buffs); 1033612 Sgt. J. Hampshire (R.F.A. T., attd. to Depot); 7253865 Sgt. O. Kniep, 6278686 Cpl. J. Wilcox, 6279836 Pte. C. Wallace (4th Buffs T.A.); 7578607 A.Q.M.S. Vaughan (R.A.O.C.); 6281725 Cpl. C. Fox (4th Buffs T.A.)

INCREASE.

RECRUITS.

Pte. C. C. Chappell, Pte. H. H. Davis, Pte. F. A. Ayling, Pte. C. T. Wall, Pte. E. J. Watts, Pte. L. C. J. Friend, Pte. P. Howe, Pte. L. Ashdown, Pte. A. Moys, Pte. B. Holman, Pte. E. G. Gammon, Pte. F. Smith, Pte. G. H. Chandler, Pte. C. F. Ball, Pte. H. A. Heathfield, Pte. C. H. Sanders, Pte. W. G. Barden, Pte. J. H. Hancock, Pte. F. G. Lavender, Pte. H. J. Scott, Pte. J. E. Tyrrell, Pte. E. Kettell, Pte. C. E. Tutt, Pte. W. J. Bowman, Pte. G. E. Bevins, Pte. R. Alexander, Pte. F. L. Munday, Pte. W. Bradbury, Pte. W. F. Houghton, Pte. J. A. Cox, Pte. T. Brackley.

STRENGTH-DECREASE.

The following were posted to 2nd Battalion on 26-4-24, and are struck off strength from 27-4-24 inclusive:—
6279851 Pte. Sharpe, 6282215 Pte. Farrell, 6282228 Pte. Langsdon, 6281643 Pte. F. Mullinger.
6278563 Pte. J. Baker.

4th Battalion.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

6280625 L/S. T. W. Foad, "D" promoted Sergeant w/e from 23-4-24.
6280478 Cpl. B. C. Foad, "D," appointed Unpaid L/Sergt. w/e from 23-4-24.
6281100 Pte. P. Hooker, "C," promoted Corporal w/e from 11-4-24.
6278020 L/c. B. D. Hope, "C," promoted Corporal w/e from 12-4-24.
6281725 Pte. G. F. Fox, "A," appointed Unpaid L/Cpl.
6280537 Pte. E. F. Hatcher, "C" and 6280419 Pte. R. F. Barden, "C," appointed Drummers w/e from 28-3-24.

RE-ENGAGEMENT.

6281160 Pte. J. R. Iverson, "D," re-engaged for a further period of one year as from 8-4-24.
6278016 Pte. D. S. Young, "C," re-engaged for a further period of one year, as from 6-5-24.
6281349 Sgt. J. R. Beale, "C," re-engaged for four years as from 5-7-24.

STRENGTH-ENLISTMENTS.

6282433 Pte. H. J. Figg, 6282434 Pte. C. Manouch, 6282435 Pte. W. J. Garlinge, 6282414 Boy R. E. Tripp, 6282437 Pte. A. A. Finn, 6282438 Pte. F. G. Shew, 6282439 Pte. L. G. Gardiner, 6282440 Boy P. J. Mack, 6282441 Pte. N. F. Woolhouse.

DISCHARGES.

6282048 Pte. R. G. Sherred, 25-4-24; 6281219 Pte. C. E. Bourner, 16-4-24; 6282357 Pte. L. C. J. Friend, 7-5-24; 6282351 Pte. E. J. Watts, 7-5-24.

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